

(D 18)
The Batchelers Banquet,

O R, (B)

A Banquet for Batchelers.

Wherein is prepared fundry dainty dishes
to furnish their Table, curiously drest,
and seriously served in.

Pleasantly discoursing the variable humours of
Women, their quicknesse of wits, and
unsearchable deceipts.

View them well, but taste not.

Regard them well, but waste not.



LONDON,

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Margate Hill, in Southwark.

You Batchelers that with us meane to feast,
Come all and welcome to our homely fare;
If at our Banquet you will be a guest,
Here at our furnisht table take a share:
Our Ordinary is but six pence price,
Varietie of dishes, be not nice.

We must confesse our board it is not spread
As is the married-mans, with Carpe and Lout;
We doe not use to feed upon Cods-head,
Crabs, Ill-pies, Gudgion, nor the dogged Pout:
For flesh, we taste no Soufe, no Lamb, no Quail,
No Woodcocke, Widgion, Bittern, Goose nor Raile.

For our last service, we feed not on Chuse;
Small-reasons, Bitter-almonds, nor Choake-peares;
We eat the best and doe the worst refuse,
Have good content, and sing away sad cares:
Good diet, English beere, and Spanish sherry,
Come Batchelers then let us all be merry.



The Batchelers Banquet.

Or a Banquet for Batchelers: wherein is prepared
sundry dishes to furnish their table: Curiously
drest, and seriously served in.

CHAP. I.

The humour of a young wife new married.

IT is the naturall inclination of a young gallant in the
pleasant prime, and flower of his flourishing youth, be-
ing fresh, lusty and iocund, to take no other care but to
employ his money to buy gay presents for pretty ladies,
to frame his greene wits in penning love ditties, his
booke to sing them sweetly, his wandring eyes to gaze on the fairest
dames, and his wanton thoughts to plot means for the speedy accom-
plishment of his wished desires, according to the compasse of his estate.
And albeit his parents or some other of his kindred, doe perhaps fur-
nish him with necessary maintenance, so that he wants nothing, but
lives in all ease & delight: yet cannot this content him, or satisfie his
unexperienced minde: for although he daily see many married men first
lapt in Loves pound, wanting former liberty, and compassed round in a
cage of many cares; yet notwithstanding over-ruled by self-will, and
blinded by folly, he supposes them therein to have the fulnesse of their
delight, because they have so neere them the Image of content,
Venus starre gloriously blazing upon them, I meane a dainty faire
wife, brabely attired, whose apparell perhaps is not yet paid for, how-
soever (so that their husband into a fooles paradise) they make them
believe that their father or mother have of their cost and bountie affor-
ded it. This lusty youth (as I earst said) seeing them already in this
maze of bitter sweetnesse, he goes round about, turmolling himselfe
in seeking an entrance, & taking such paines to finde his owne paine,
that in the end, in he gets, when for the faste he makes, to have a taste
of these supposed delicacies, he hath no leisure to thinke, or care to
prohinde those things that are hereunto requisite. The silly punker
being thus gotten in, dath for a time swim in delight, and hath wdo-

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Are at all to winde himsele out again, till time and use which makes all things moze familiar and lesse pleasing, doe qualifie this humour: then glutted with satietie, or pinched with penury, he may perhaps begin to see his folly, and repent as well his fondnesse, as his too much forwardnesse, but all too late, he must have patience perforce: his wife must be maintained according to her degree, and withall (commonly it haps she carry the right stomach of a woman) tender maintenance will not serbe, for as their minds mount aboue their estates, so commonly will they haue their adilliments. And if at a feast, or some o-ther gossips meeting whereunto she is inbited, she see any of the company gaily attired for cost, or fashion, or both, and chiefly the latter, for generally women doe affect nobelties, she forthwith mooves a question in her selfe, why she also should not be in like sort assured, to haue her garments cut after the new fashion as well as the rest, and answers it with resolution, that she will and must haue the like: Awaiting only fit time and place for the moving and winning of her husband thereunto, of both which she will make such choyce, that when she speaks she will be sure to speed: obserbing her opportunity when she might take her husband at the most advantage, which is commonly the garden of love, the state of marriage delights, and the life wherein the weaker sex haue ever the better: when therefore this lusty Gallant would fulfill his desire, for which cause he chiefly ran wilfully into the perill of Lobs pound, then squeamishly she begins thus, saying, I pray you husband let me alone, trouble me not, for I am not well at ease: which he hearing presently makes this reply.

Why my sweet heart what ailes you, are you not well? I pray thee wife tell mee, where lies thy griefe? or what is the cause of your disconteht? whereupon the wise woman fetching a deepe sigh makes this answer: O Husband God helpe mee, I haue cause enough to grieve, and if you knew all you would say so: but alas it is in vaine to tell you any thing, seeing that whatsoeber I say, you make but little reckoning of it: and therefore it is best for mee to bury my sorowes in silence, being out of hope to haue any helpe at your hands. Iesus wife (saith hee) why use you these words? is my unkindnesse such that I may not know your griefes? tell mee I say what is the matter? In truth husband it were to no purpose, for I know your custome well enough, as for my words, they are but waile winde in your eares, for how great soeber my griefe is, I am assured.

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assured you will but make light of it, and thinke that I speake it for some other purpose.

Goe to *Wife*, saith her husband, tell it mee, for I will know it. *Well* husband, if you will needs, you shall: you know on *Thursday* last, I was sent for, and you willed me to goe to *Mistresse M.* Churching, and when I came thither, I found great cheere, and no small company of wives, but the meaneest of them all was not so ill attired as I, and surely I was neuer so ashamed of my selfe in my life: yet I speake it not to praise my selfe, but it is well knowne, and I dare boldly say, that the best woman there, came of no better stocke than I. But alas, I speake not this for my selfe, for God tooke I passe not how meanly I am apparelled, but I speake it for your credit, and my friends. *Why* wife, saith hee, of what calling and degree were those you speake of. *Truely* good Husband (saith shee) the meaneest that was there, being but of my degree, was in her loose golwne with hanging sleeves, her French roses, her lilke grograine kirtle, her beiber hat, with a gold band, and these with the rest of her attire, made of the newest fashion, which is knowne the best: whereas I poore wretch had on my threed-bare golwne, which was made me so long agoe, against I was married, besides that it was now too short for mee, for it is I remember, since it was made about three yeares agoe, since which time I am growne very much, and so changed with cares and griefes, that I looke farre older than I am: Trust mee, I was so ashamed, being amongst my neighbors, that I had not the heart to looke up, but that which grieved mee most was, when *Mistresse Luce B.* and *Mistresse T.* said openly that it was a shame both for you and mee, that I had no better apparell. *Now* *Wife* (quoth the good man) let them say what they list, we are neuer a whit the worse for their words: we have enough to doe with our money though we spend it not in apparell: You know *Wife*, when we met together, we had no great store of Household stuffe, but were faine to buy it afterward by some and some, as God sent money, and yet you see we want many things that is necessary to be had: besides the quarter day is nere, and my Landlord you know will not forbear his rent: moreover, you see how much it costs me in late about the recobering of the tenement which I should have by you: God send me to get it quickly,

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or else I shall have but a bad bargaine of it, for it hath already almost cost me as much as it is worth. At these words his waiues choler begins to rise, whereupon she makes him this answer. Goodly, goodly, (saith she) when you have nothing else to hit me in the teeth withall, pee twit mes with the tenement: but it is my fortune. Why how now waiue saith her Husband, are you now angry for nothing? Nay, I am not angry, I must be content with that which God hath ordained for me: but I wis the time was, when I might have beene better advise, there are some yet liking that would have beene glad to have me in my smocke, whom you know well enough to be proper young men, and therewith all wise and wealthie: but I verely suppose I was bewittit to match with a man that lobes me not: though I purchased the ill will of all my friends for his sake, this is all the good that I have gotten thereby: I may truly say I am the most unhappy woman in the world: doe you thinke that Law. Tom. and N. M. (who were both suiters to me) doe keepe their waiues so: no byz lady, for I know the worst clothes that they cast off, is better than my very best which I weare on the chiefest dayes in the yeere: I know not what the cause is that so many good women die, but I would to God that I were dead too, that I might trouble you no more, seeing I am such an eyesore unto you. Now by my faith waiue, saith he, you say not well, there is nothing that I thinke too good for you, if my ability can compasse it. But you know our estate, we must doe as we may, and not as we would, yet be of good cheere, and I will straine my selfe to please you, in this or any other thing.

Nay, I have no minde on such matters, and if you had no more desire thereto than I, I promise you, you would never touch me. So waiue (saith he) hoping so with a iest to make her merr, by my honesty I sweare, I verely thinke that if I were dead, you would not be long without another husband. So marvell sure, saith she, I lead such a good life with you now. By my Christian soule I sweare, there should never man kisse my lips againe. And if I thought I should live long with you, I would use meanes to make my selfe away: Herewithall shee puts finger in the eye, making shew as though she wept: Thus playes she with the silly sot her husband (meaning nothing lesse than to doe as she sayes) while her poore foole is in minde both well and ill apaid: he thinks himselfe well, because he imagines her of a cold constitution, and therefore exceeding chaste: hee thinks him-

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himselfe ill, to see her fained teares, for that he verily supposes shee loves him, which doth not a little grieve him, being so kinde and tender hearted. Therefore hee useth all meane possible to make her quiet, neuer will he giue her ower, while he hath effected it. But she prosecuting her former purpose which she hath already set in so faire a forwardnesse, makes as though shee were nothing moved with his gentle perswasions: Therefore to crosse him, she gets her up betimes in the morning, sooner a great deale than shee was wont, potting and loring all the day, and not giuing him one good word. But when night comes, and they againe both in bed, laying her selfe sullenly downe, and continuing still silent, the good man hearkens whether she sleep or no, feesles if she be well covered or not, he softly pluckes up the clothes upon her, Tapping her warme, being double diligent to please her. Shee lying all this while winking, noting his kindnesse and carefullnesse towards her, seemes on a sudden to awake from a sound sleep, grunting and nuzzing under the sheete, giuing him occasion thereby thus to begin: How now sweet heart, what are you asleep? Asleep (saith she) I saith Sir now a troubled mind can neuer take good rest. Why woman are not you quiet yet? No doubt (saith she) you care much whether I be or no. By lady wife, and so I doe: and since yesternight, I haue bethought mee (having well considered your words) that it is very meet and requisite, that you should bee better furnished with apparell than heretofore you haue beene, for indeed I must confesse thy clothes are too simple; and therefore I meane against my cousin M. wedding (which you know will be shortly) that you shall haue a new gowne made on the best fashion, with all things futable thereunto, in such sort that the best woman in the parish shall not passe you. Nay (quoth she) God willing I meane to goe to no weddings this twelue moneth, for the goodly credit I got by the last. By my faith (saith hee) but you shall, what you must not be so headstrong and selfe-will. I tell you if I say the word you shall goe, and you shall want nothing that you aske or require. What I aske? alas husband (quoth she) I aske nothing, neither did I speake this for any desire that I haue to goe hize: trust me for mine owne part I care not if I neuer stirre abroad, save onely to Church: but what I said was upon the speeches which were there used, and such other like words, which my gossip N. told me that she had also heard in company where she was. With these words the good kinde soole her husband.

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hand is nettle), for on the one side he considers his surtsey other occasions to use money, & his small store thereof, which is perhaps so slender, that his single purse cannot extempore change a double pistolet. And so ill bested of household stuffe, that perhaps the third part is not a sufficient pawning for so much money as this new sute of his wifes will stand him in. But on the other side he waighs her discontent, the report of neighbours speeches, and lastly, how good a wife he hath of her, how chaste, how loving, how religious, whereof the kinde Ass hath such an opinion, that he thanks God with all his heart, for blessing him with such a Newell: In this thought hee resolues that all other things set aside, he must and will content her. And here withall hee sets his bzaines a fresh on worke, to consider how best hee may compasse it: And in this humour he spends the whole night without sleepe, in continuall thought. And it comes to passe that the wife perceiving to what a point shee hath brought her purpose, doth not a little rejoyce and smile in her sleepe to see it. The next morning by the breake of day the poore man gets up, who for care and thought could take no rest all night, and goes presently to the Drapers, of whom he takes up cloth for three moneths time, paying for it after an excessive rate, by reason of their forbearance, and in like sort makes provision for the rest; for perhaps because he would buy it at a better rate, he pawns for ready money the Lease of his house, or some faire peece of plate, which his grandfather bought, and his father charily keeping left for him, which now he is enforced to part with, to furnish thereby his wifes pride; and having thus dispatched his business, hee returnes home with a merry heart, and shewes his wife what hee hath done: who being now sure of all, begins to curse the first inventers of pride, and excesse in apparell: saying, Fye upon it, what pride is this: but I pray you husband, doe not say hereafter that I made you lay out your money in this needlesse sort, for I protest that I have no delight or desire to goe thus gariishly: If I have to cover my body and keepe me warme, it contents mee. The good man hearing his wife say so, doth even leape for joy, thinking all her words Gospel, and therefore presently he sets the taploz a worke, willing him to dispatch out of hand, that his wife may bee habed so soone as may be. Shee having thus obtained her purpose, doth inwardly triumph for very joy, howsoever outwardly shee doth dissemble. And whereas before shee vaunted, that she could finde in her heart to

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keepe altogates within doore, she will be sure now every good day to goe abroad, and at each feast and Gossips meeting to be a continuall guest, that all may see her bravery, and how well shee doth become it; for which cause, shee also comes every Sunday dayly to the Church, that there shee may see and be seene, which her Husband thinkes shee doth of meere devotion. But in the meane while the time runnes on, and the day comes, wherein the poore man must pay his Creditors, which being unable to doe, hee is at length arrested, and after due proceeding in Law, he hath an Execution served upon him, or his patrone is forfeited, and by either of both hee is almost utterly undone. Then must his fine Wife of force batte her Peacocks plumes, and fall againe to her old way, keeping her house against her will, because shee could not bee furnished with gay attire according to her minde. But God knoweth in what misery the silly man doth live, being dayly vexed with her braving and scolding, exclaiming against him, that all the house doth ring thereof, and in this sort shee beginnes her sagaries. Now cursed be the day that ever I saw thy face, and a shame take them that brought mee first acquainted with thee: I would to God I had either died in my cradle, or gone to my grave when I went to be married with thee. Was ever woman of my degree and birth brought to this beggerie? Or any of my bringing up kept thus basely, and brought to this shame? I which little knew what labor meant, must now toyle and tend the house as a drudge, having never a Coate to my backe, or scant handsome hose to my legges, and yet all little enough, whereas, I wis, I might have had twenty good marriages, in the meanest of which, I should have lived at ease and pleasure, without being put to any paine, or suffering and penury. What's that I am, why doe I live? Now would to God I were in my grave already, for I am weary of the world, weary of my life, and weary of all. Thus doth she dayly complaine, and lay all the fault of her fall on him which least deserbed it, nothing rememb'ring her owne pride, in coveting things above their estate or ability, her misgoverment, and dayly gadding with her Gossips to Banquets and Biddals, when she should have lookt to house and followed her owne businesse at home. And his folly is: also such, that being blinded with dotage, (though too much loving her,) cannot perceive that shee is the cause of all this evill, of all the cares, griefes,

Alas poore
foole.

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and thoughts, which perplex and torture him, and yet nothing cuts him so much as this, to see her so furnish and unquiet, whom if he can any time somewhat pacifie, then is his heart somewhat at rest. Thus doth she silly togeth tosse, and torture himselfe in Lobs pound, wapt in a kinde of pleasing woe, out of the which he hath neither power nor will to winde himselfe: but therein doth consume the remnant of his languishing life, and miserably end his dayes.

CHAP. II. The humour of a Woman pranked up in brave Apparell.

The nature of a Woman inclined to another kinde of humour, (which is this) when the wife seeing her selfe bravely apparelled, and that she is therewith faire and comely (or if she be not) yet thinking her selfe so (as women are naturally giben to sooth themselves) she doth as I said before, haunt after feasts and solemne meetings, wherewith her husband perhaps is not very well pleased: with the perceiving, the more to bleere his eyes, she takes with her some kind woman, or Gossip, or possibly some lusty Gallant, of whom she claimes kindred, though in very deed there bee no such matter but onely a smooth colour to deceive her Husband: And perchance to induce him the sooner to beleve it, her Mother (which is pritty to the match,) will not sticke to say and sweare it is so: But sometime the Husband to prevent his Wifes gadding, will faine some let, as want of Horses, or other like hinderences: then presently the Gossip or kind woman (of whom before I spake) will thus solemnly assault him.

Beleebe me Gossip, I have as little pleasure as who hath least, in going abroad, for I wis I had not so much businesse to doothes in, moneths as I have at this instant: yet should I not goe to this wedding being so kindly bidden, I know the young Bride would take it in very ill part: Pea, and (I may say to you) so would our neighbours, and others our friends, which will be there, who would verily imagine, wee keepe away for some other cause: and were it not for this, I protest I would not stirre out of doores, neither would my Cousin your Wife have any desire to goe thither: Thus much I can truly witness, that I never knew any woman take lesse delight in such things than your Wife: or which being abroad will make more haste to be at home againe.

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The silly man her Husband, being vanquished by these words, and no longer able to deny their request, demands onely what other women doe appoint to goe, and who shall man them? Harry Sir, (saith she) that shall my Cousin H. And besides your Wife and I, there goes my Kinswoman T. and her Mother, Mistresse H. and her Aunt: my Uncle T. & his Brother, to be met with both, their Wives Mistresse C. my next neighbour: and to conclude, all the Women of account in this streete: (I dare boldly say,) that honestest Company there cannot bee, though it were to conbey a Kings Daughter.

Now it oft chanced that this smooth tongued Quixot who pleads thus quaintly with womans Art, must haue for her paines a Colone cloath, a Jewel, or some other recompence, if she prebaile with the good man, and cunningly play her part. He after some pause (perhaps) will reply in this sort: Gossip, I confesse it is very good company, but my wife hath now great businesse at home, and besides she useth to goe very much abroad, yet for this time I am content she shall goe. But I pray you, Waite (quoth he) be at home betimes. His wife seeing that her gossip had gotten leaue, makes as if she cares not for going forth, saying: By my faith man I haue something else to doe, than to goe to a Bridall at this present: what? we haue a great household, and rude serbants (God wot) whose idlenesse is such, that they will not doe any thing, if a bodiees backe be turn'd: for it is an old Proverbe: (When the Cat is away, the Mouse will play.) And therefore Gossip hold you content, we must not be altogether carelesse, nor let so much by our pleasure to neglect our profit: And therefore hold me excused, for I cannot now be spared, nor I will not goe, that is flat. Nay good gossip (saith the other) seeing your husband hath given you leaue, let us haue your company tis once, and if it be but for my sake, such a chance as this comes not ebery day. With that the good man taking the old Cyb aside, whispers her thus in the eare: were it not Gossip for the confidence I repose in you, I protest thee should not stirre out of doores at this time. Now as I am an honest Woman (quoth shee) and of my credit Gossip you shall not need to doubt any thing.

Thus to Horse they get, and away they spurro with a merry gallop, laughing to themselves, mocking and flouting the silly man for his simplicity: the one saying to the other, that he had a shrewd lea-

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ious bzaime, but it should abaile him nothing. Lust (saide the young woman) It is an old saying, He had need have a long spoone that will eat with the Devill, and shee of a good wit that would prevent the fury of a jealous foole: and with this and the like talke, they passe the time till they come to the place appointed, where they meet with lusty Gallants, (who peradventure) had at the former feast made the match, and were come thither of purpose to stricke up the bargaine. But howsoever it is, this lusty Lass lacks no good cheere, nor any kindnesse which they can shew her,

Imagine now how forward shee will bee to shew her best skill in dancing and singing, and how lightly shee will after ward esteeme her Husband, being thus courted and commended by a crew of lusty Gallants, who seeing her so bzabely attired, and graced with so sweet and smooth a tongue, so sharpe a wit, so amiable a countenance, will each strive to exceed other, in serving, loving, and pleasing her: for the gallant rarrage and wanton demeanour of so beautifull a peece, cannot chuse but incourage a meere Coward, and heat (if not inflame) a frozen heart: One assaies her with sugred tearmes, and some pleasant discourse, painting forth his affection with Lovers eloquence: Another giveth her a priuy token, by straining her soft hand, or treading upon her pretty foote: Another eyes her with a piercing a pittifull look, making his countenance his fancie. Ver- rard: and perhaps the third (which is most likely to speed) bestowes upon her a gold Ring, a Diamond, a Ruby, or some such like costly top: By all which aforesaid Tokens, shee may well conceive their meanings, (if she have any conceit at all,) and sometimes it so falls out that they fall in where they should not: and shee sleeping somewhat aslee, doth so shrewdly streine her honestie, that hardly or never the grieve can be cured. But to proceed, this sbergozgius wanton- ning of his Wife, bzings the poore man behind hand, and doth with- all cause a greater inconvenience; for in the end by one meanes or other, either through her too much boldnesse, or her Lovers want of warinesse, the matter at length comes to light, whereof some friends or kinsman giveth him notice.

He being tickled by this bad report, thereupon searching further, finds it true, or gathers more likelihood of suspicion, and that presently infects his thought with jealousie, into which mad tormenting humour, no wise man will ever fall: for it is an evil both extreme
and

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and endlesse, especially (if it be lustily conceived) upon the wifes knowne lechdonesse, for then there is no hope of curing. Shee on the other side seeing this, and receiuing for her loose life many bitter speeches doth closely keep on her old course, but now more for spite than pleasure; for it is in baine to thinke that she will reclaim her selfe. And if he (hoping by constraint to make her honest) fall to beating her, (though he use neuer so much severity) shee shall but kindle so much more the fire of that leude love, which she bears unto others: hereon followes a heape of mischiefes: He growes carelesse of his businesse, letting all things run to ruine: Shee on the other side becomes shamelesse, conuerting into deadly hate the Love that shee should beare him. Judge now what a purgatory of perplexities the poore man doth lide in: and yet for all this he is so besotted, that hee seemes to take great pleasure in his paines, and to be so farre in love with Lobs pornd, that were he not already in, yet he would make all hast possible to be possessed of the place, there to consume the residue of his life, and miserably end his dayes.

CHAP. III. The humour of a woman lying in Child-bed.

There is another humoz incident to a woman, when her husband sees her belly to grow big (though peradventure by the helpe of some other friend) yet he perswades himselfe it is a trocke of his owne framing: and this breeds him new cares and troubles, for then must he trot up and doونه day and night, farre and neere, to get with great cost that his wife longs for; if she let fall out a pinne hee is diligent to take it up, least shee by stooping should hurt her selfe; Shee on the other side is so hard to please, that it is a great tay when he fits her humour, in bringing home that which likes her, though hee spare no paines nor cost to get it. And oft times though ease and plenty she growes so queasie stomacht, that shee can brooke no common meate, but long for strange and rare things, which whether they be to be had or no, yet she must have them, there is no remedy. Shee must have Cherries, though for a pound he pay ten shillings, or greene Pestodes at foure nobles a pecke: yea, he must take a horse and ride into the Countrey, to get her greene Codlings, when they are scarce so big as a scotch button. In this trouble and vexation of minde and body, lides the silly man for six or seven moneths, all which time his wife doth nothing but complaine, and bee

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poore soule takes all the care, rising early, going late to bed, and to be short, is faine to play both the husband and the buswife. But when the time drawes neere of her lying downe, then must he trudge to get Gossips, such as she will appoint, or else all the fat's in the fire. Consider then what cost and trouble it will bee to him, to have all things fine against the Christning day, what store of Sugar, Wifkets, Comphets and Carawapes, Parmalet, and Marchpane, with all kinde of sweet suckets and superfluous banquetting stufte, with a hundzed other odde and needlesse trifles, which at that time must fill the pockets of daintie dames: Besides the charge of the midwife, shee must have her nurse to attend and keepe her, who must make for her warme broths, and costly caldels, enough both for her selfe and her mistresse; being of the minde to fare no worse than shee: If her mistresse be fed with partridge, plover, Woodcocks, quailles, or any such like, the nurse must be partner with her in all these dainties: neither yet will that suffice, but during the whole moneth she privily pilfers away the suger, the nutmegs and ginger, with all other spices that comes under her keeping, putting the poore man to such expence, that in a whole yeare he can scarcely recover that one months charges. When every day after her lying downe will sundry dames visite her, which are her neighbors, her kinswomen and other her speciall acquaintance, whom the good man must welcome with all cheerefulness, and be sure there be some dainties in store to set before them: where they about some three or foure houres (or possibly halfe a day, will sit chatting with the Childwife. And by that time the cups of wine have merrily trolld about, and halfe a dozen times moistned their lips with the sweet iuyce of the purple grape: They begin thus one with another to discourse; Good Lord neighbour, I marvell how our Gossip Frees doth, I have not seene the good soule this many aday.

Oh God helpe her, quoth another, for shee hath her hands full of worke, and her heart full of heavinesse: While she drudges all the weeke at home, her husband he an unthrift never leaves running abroad to the Tennis court, and Wicing houses, spending all that ever hee hath in such lewd sort: yea, and if that were the worst it is well: but where you Gossip, there is another matter spoyles all, hee cares no more for his wife than for a dog, but keepes queanes even under her nose. Iesu saith another, who would thinke he were such a man, he behaves himselfe so orderly and civilly to all mens sights:

Aust

The Batcheles Banquet:

Lust, hold your peace Gossip (saith the other) it is commonly seene,
 the still soto eats up all the drasse, hee carries a smooth countenance,
 but a corrupt conscience: What I know F. well enough, I will not
 say he loves mistris G. goe too Gossip, I drinke to you. Pea and
 saith another there goes soule lies if G. himselfe loves not his maid
 N. I can tell you their mouths will not bee stopp'd with a bushell of
 wheat that speake it. When the third fetching a great sigh, saying, by
 my troth such another bould Bettresse habe I at home: for neber
 gibe me credit Gossip, if I tooke her not the other day in close confe-
 rence with her Waster; but I thinke I be trobled my maid in such
 sort, that she will habe small list to doe so againe. Nay Gossip (saith
 another) had it beene to mee, that should not habe serbed her turne,
 but I would habe turned the queane out of doores to picks a Sal-
 let, for wot you what Gossip? It is ill setting fire and flax together:
 but I pray you tell me one thing: when saw you our friend mistresse
 C. Now in good sooth she is a kinde creature, and a very gentle Peat:
 I promise you I saw her not since you and I dranke a pint of wine
 with her in the fish market. O gossip (saith another) there is a great
 change since that time, for they habe beene faine to payne all that
 eber they habe, and yet God knowes her husband lies still in prison.
 O the passion of my heart (saith another) is all their great and glo-
 rious shew come to nothing? good Lord what a trold is this? Wot
 Gossip (saith another) it was neber like to be otherwise, for they
 lobed eber to goe fine and fare daintily, and by my faith Gossip, this
 is not a woold for those matters, and thereupon I drinke to you.
 This is commonly their communication, where they finde deare
 according to their choice. But if it happen contrary, that they finde
 not things in such plenty and good order as they would wish, then one
 or other of them will talke to this effect: Trust me Gossip, I mar-
 vell much, and so doe all our other friends, that your Husband is
 not ashamed to make such small account of you, and this your sweet
 childe, if he be such a niggard at the first, what will he bee by that
 time he hath sibe or sir: it doth well appeare he beares but little love
 to you: whereas your bountifulling to match with him, hath done him
 more credit than eber had any of his kindred. Befoze God, saith an-
 other, I had rather see my husbands eyes out then he should serbe me
 so: therefore if you be wise, use him not to it: neither in this sort let
 him tread pon under foot: I tell you it is a soule shame for him, and
 you

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you may be well assured sith he begins this, that hereafter he will use you in the same order, if not worse. In good sooth saith the third, it seemes very strange to me, that a wise woman, and one of such parentage as you are, who as all men knowes, is by blood farre his better, can endure to bee thus used by a base companion: Blame us not to speake, good Gossip, for I protest the wrong that he doth you doth likewise touch us, and all other good women that are in your case.

This Child-wife hearing all this, begins to weepe, saying: Alas Gossip, I know not what to doe, or how to please him, he is so diuers and wayward a man, and besides he thinks all too much that is spent. Gossip he is (said one) a bad and a naughty man, and so it is well seene by your usage. All my Gossips here can tell, that when I was married to my husband, every one said that he was so hasty and hard to please, that he would kill me with griefe: And indeed I may say to you, I found him crabbed enough: for he began to take upon him mightily, and thought to have wrought wonders, yet I have used such meanes, that I have tamed my young master, and have at this present brought him to that passe, that I dare sweare he had rather lose one of his taynts than to angle with me: I will not deny, but once or twice he beat me shrewdly, which I, God wot, being young and tender tooke in grievous pert, but what he got by it let my Gossip T. report, who is yet a woman living, and can tell the whole story: to whom my good man within a while after said, that I was past remedy, and that he might sooner kill mee, than doe any good by beating me, (and by these ten bones so he should) but in the end I brought the matter so about, that I got the bridle into my owne hands, so that I may now say, I doe what I list: for be it right or wrong, if I say it, he will not gain-say it, for by this gold on my finger, let him doe what he can, I will be sure to have the last word: So that in every deed, if that women be made underlings by thire, husbands, the fault is thire owne: For there is not any man alke, (be he never so charlish) but his wife may make him quiet and gentle enough, if she have any wit: And therefore your Good master bes you but well enough, sith you will take it so.

Beleeve me Gossip (saith another) were I in your case, I would give him such welcome at his coming home, and ring such a peale of bad words in his eares, that he should have small joy to stay the hearing.

Thus

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Thus is the poore man handled behind his back, whiles they make no spare to helpe a wey with his good wine and sugar (which he hath prepared,) whom they for his kindnesse thus ingratelly requite: yea, and now and then habing their brains well heated, they will not sticke to taunt him to his face: accusing him of little love and great unkindnesse to his wife.

Now it doth many times so chauce, that hee habing beene forth to provide such meates as she would have, he cometh home (perhaps at midnight) and befoze he sitteth downe to rest himselfe, hath a very earnest desire to know how his wife doth, and perchance being loth to lie abroad, because of expence, travels the later, that he may reach to his owne house: where (when he is once come) he asketh the Chambermaid, or else the Purse, how his wife doth: they habing their errand befoze giben them by their Mistres, answers, shee is very ill at ease, and that since his departure she tasted not one bit of meate: but that towards the evening she began to be a little better all which he meere lyes. But the poore man hearing these words, grieves not a little, though he be all to be moyld, weary and wet, habing gone a long iourney thozow a bad and filthy way, upon some ill paced trotting Jade, and it may be is fasting too: yet will hee neither eat nor drinke, (nor so much as once sit downe) till he have seene his wife: Then the prattling idle Purse, which is not to learne to explot such a peece of service, begins to looke very heabty, and to sigh inwardly, as though her Mistresse had beene that day at the point of death which he seeing, was the more earnest to visith his wife: whom at the entrance of the Chamber, he heares lye groaning to her selfe, and comming to the beds side, kindly sits downe by her saying, how now my sweete heart, how dost thou? Ah husband (saith shee) I am very ill, nor was I ever so sicke in my life, as I have beene this day. Alas good soule (saith hee) I am the more sorry to heare it. I pray thee tell me where lies thy paine? Ah husband (quoth shee) you know I have beene weake a long time; and not able to eat any thing. But wife (quoth he) why did you not cause the nurse to boyle you a Capon, and make a melle of good broath for you? So she did (said his wife) as well as she could, but it did not like me God wot, and by that meanes I have eaten nothing, since the broath which your selfe made me: Ah me thought that was excellent good.

Mary wife (saith hee) I will presently make you some more of

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the same, and you shall eate it for my sake. With all my heart good husband (saith she) and I shall thinke my selfe highly beholding unto you. Then trudgeth hee into the kitchen, there plays he the Cooke, burning and broyling himselfe ober the fire; habing his eyes ready to be put out with smoake, while he is busie in making the broth: what time hee hides with his maids, calling them begits and baggager, that knowes not how to doe anything: Not so much as make a little broath for a sicke body, but hee must bee faine to doe it himselfe. Then comes downe mistres nurse, as fine as a farthing fiddle, in her peticoat and girtle, habing on a white waistcoat, with a haunting cambzicke russe about her necke, who like a Modres in faculty, comes thus upon him. Good Lord sir, what paines you take, here is no body can please our mistres but your selfe; I will assure you (on my credit) that I doe what I can, yet for my life, I cannot any way content her. Whereover, here came in mistres Cot. and mistres Con. who did both of them what they could to have your wife eat something: Nevertheless, all that they did could not make her taste one spoonfull of any thing all this life-long day: I know not what shee ayles: I have kept many women in my time, both of worship, and credit, (simple though I stand here) but I never know any so weak as shee is: I, I (quoth he) you are a company of cunning Cookes, that cannot make a little broath as it should be. And by this time the broath being ready, he brings it straight to his wife, comforting her with many kinde words, praping her to eate for his sake, or to taste a spoonfull or twaine, which shee doth, commending it to the heavens, affirming also that the broath which the others made, had no good taste in the world, and was nothing worship. The good man hereof being not a little proud, bids them mak a good fire in his wives chamber, charging them to tend her well. And habing given this direction, he gets himselfe to supper with some cold meat set before him, such as the gossip left, or his nurse could spare, and habing this short pittance, he goes to bed full of care.

The next morning he gets him up betimes, and comes very kindly to know how his wife doth, who presently pops him in the mouth with a smooth lye: saying, that all night she could take no rest till it grew towards the morning, and then she began to feeble a little more ease, when God knowes she never slept more soundly in all her life. Well wife, (saith the good man) you must remember that this night

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is our gossip's supper, and they will come hither with many other of our friends, therefore wee must provide some good thing for them: especially, because it is your upstirring, and a fortnight at the least since you were brought to bed: but good wife let us goe as neere to the world as we may: seeing that our great charge doth every day increase, and money was never so ill to come by.

Shee hearing him say so, begins to pout saying: would for my part I had died in travail, and my poore infant beene strangled in the birth, so should you not bee troubled with us at all, nor have cause to repine so much at our spending: I am sure there is never a woman in the world, that in my case hath worse keeping, or is lesse chargeable, yet let me pinch and spare, and doe what I can, all is thought too much that I have: Trust me I care not a straw whether you provide mee any thing or no, although the sorrow be mine, the shame will be yours, as yesterday for example: I am sure here came in above a dozen of our neighbours and friends, of meere kindnesse to see mee, and know how I did, who by their countenance and coming did you greater credit than you deserve: But God knowes what entertainment they had, having nothing in the house to set before them, which made me so much ashamed, that I knew not what to say: I tell you what, before God I may boldly speake it, (for I have seene it,) that when any one of them lies in, their very servants, have better fare than I my selfe have had at your hands, which they seeing (betwixt themselves yesterday) when they were here, did most cunningly flout both you and mee for their entertainment, I have not (as you know) lien in above fifteen dayes, and can yet scant stand on my legs, and you thinke the time too long, till I be moping about the house (to catch my bane,) as I feare I have done already. Wellbe-me Wife (quoth he) you mistake me greatly, for no man in the world can be more kinde to his wife, than I have beene to you. Kinde to me (quoth she) by the masse that you have with a murren: No doubt but I have had a sweet messe of cherishing at your hands, but I see your drift well enough, you gape every day for my death, and I would to God it were so for me: The moneth indeed is halfe expired, and I feare the rest will come, before we be ready for it: My sister S. was here no longer agoe than to day, and aske if I had ever a new Colone to be Churched in, but God wot I am farre enough from it, neither doe I desire it, though it be a thing which ought both by reason and custome to be observed.

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And because it is your pleasure, I will rise to morrow what chance
 so eber befall, for the worst is, I can but lose my life: full well may
 I gather by this, how you will use me hereafter, and what account
 you would make of mee, if I had nine or tenne Children, but God
 forbid it should eber come to passe, I desire rather to be rid of my
 life, and so to shun the shame of the world, than long to live with such
 an unkinde churle. Now verily wife (saith the good man) I must needs
 blame your impatience, for growing so cholericke without cause.
 Without cause (quoth she) do you think I have no iust cause to com-
 plaine? I will assure you there is never a woman of my degree, that
 would put up the intolerable iniuries that I have done, and daily doe
 by means of your hoggish rouditions. Well wife, saith the good man,
 lye as long as you list, and rise when you will, but I pray you tell
 me how this new gown may be had, which you so earnestly aske for:
 By my faith (quoth she) you say not well, for I aske nothing at your
 hands, neither would I have it though I might: I thanke God I have
 gownes enough already, and sufficient to serbe my turne, and you
 know I take no delight in garish attire, for I am past a girle, but it
 makes me smile to see what a shew of kindnesse you would faine
 make: It is on thee dissembler, you can cog and flatter as well as any
 man in this towne, and full little thinke they that see you abroad,
 what a devil you are at home: for what with your crooked qualities
 with topling, moping, carking and caring, and being beside broken
 with Child-bearing, my countenance is quite changed, so that I looke
 already as withered, as the barke of an Elder bough: There is my
 cousin T. T. who when I was a little girle, was at womans estate,
 and in the end married master H. with whom she leads a Ladies life,
 looking so young and lusty, that I may seeme to be her mother: I, I,
 such is the difference betwixt a kinde, and an uncourteous husband:
 and who knowes not but he was a suter to me, and made many a iour-
 ney to my fathers house for my sake, and would so faine have had
 mee, that while I was to marry, he would not match himselfe with
 any: but so much was I bewitcht, that after I had once seene you,
 I would not have changed for the best Lord in the land, and this I
 have in recompence of my love and loyalty: Go to wife (saith he)
 I pray you leaue these labish speeches, and let us call to minde
 where wee may best take up cloth for your gowne: for you see,
 such is our weake estate, that if we should rashly lay out that little
 money

the Fox
 all eat no
 apes.

o more
 e the
 man I.
 is, than
 apple is
 e an ey-
 r.

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money which is in the house, we might possibly be unprovideste
all other necessities: Wherefore whatsoever should chance her-
after, it is best to keepe something against a rainy day: And againe
you know within these eight or nine dayes, I have five pound to pay
to master P. which must be done, there is no shift, other wise I am
like to sustaine treble damage. Tush (quoth she) what talke you
to me of those matters? alas I aske you nothing, I would to God
I were once rid of this trouble: I pray you let me take some rest,
for my head akes (God helpe me) as it should goe in peeces, I wis you
feele not my paine, and you take little care for my griefe: Wherefore
I pray you send my gossip wozd that they may not come, for I feele
my selfe very ill at ease. Not so (quoth he) I will never breake cu-
stome, nor so much as gain-say their courteous offer, they shall come
sure, and be entertained in the best manner I may. Well (quoth she)
I would to God you would leaue me, that I might take a little rest,
and then doe what you list. Upon these speeches the nurse straight
steps in, and rounds her master in the eare: I pray you sir doe not
force her to many wozds, for it makes her head light, and doth great
harme to a woman in her case, especially her braines being so light
for want of sleepe: and besides, she is God knowes, a woman of
a tender and choise complexion, and with that shee drabes the cur-
taines about the bed. Thus is the poore man held in suspence, till
the next day that the gossips come, who will play their parts so
kindly, and gall him to the quicke with their quibs and taunts,
that his courage will be wholly quaild, and hee ready (if they should
bid him, like the prodigall child, even to eat drasse with the hogs) ra-
ther than he would displease them. But to proceed, hee in the meane
while is double diligent, to provide all things against their comming,
according to his ability, and by reason of his wifes wozds, he buyes
more meat, and prepares a great deale better cheere than he thought
to have done. At their comming hee is ready to welcome them with
his cap in hand, and all the kindnesse that may be shewed. Then doth
he trudge bare headed up and doone the house, with a cheerefull coun-
tenance, like a good Affe sit to beare the burthen: he brings the gos-
sips up to his wife, and comming first to her himselfe, hee tells her of
their comming. I wis (quoth she) I had rather they had kept at home,
and so they would too, if they knew how little pleasure I tooke in
their comming. Nay I pray you wife (saith he) gibe them good coun-
tenance,

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tenance seeing they be come for good will: with this they enter, and after mutuall greetings, with much gossip ceremonies, downe they sit, and there spend the whole day, in breaking their fasts, dining, and in making an afternoones repast: besides their petty suppings at her bed side, and at the cradle, where they discharge their parts so well, in helping him a way with his good wine and sugar, that the poore man comming oft to heare them, doth well perceiue it, and greeues inwardly thereat, howsoever, he cobers his discontent with a merry countenance. But they not caring how the game goes, take their pennyworths of that heare which is before them, neuer asking how it comes there, and so they merrily passe the time away, prattling and talking of many good matters. Afterward the poore man trots up and downe anew, to get his wife the foresaid goone, and all other things thereto suitable, whereby he sets himselfe soundly in debt: sometimes he is troubled with the childes bawling, sometimes he is bawled at by the nurse: then his wife complaines that she was neuer well since she was brought to bed, then must he cast his cares anew, dibbling by what meanes to discharge his debts, and lessen his expences: then resolues he to diminish his otone port, and augment his wibes habery, he will goe all the yeare in one sute, and make two paire of shoes serbe him a twelue moneth, keeping one paire for holydaies, another for working daies, and one hat in three or foure yeare. Thus according to his otone rash desire, hee is up to the eares in Lobs pound, and for all the woe and wretchednesse that he hath felt, he would not yet be out again, but doth then willingly consume himselfe in continuall care, sorrow & trouble, till death doth set him free.

CHAP. IIII. The humour of a woman that hath a charge of children.

Being tired
with scold-
ing, as a
hackney
Iade with
trayell.

The next humour that is by nature incident to a woman, is when the husband hath bene married nine or tenne yeeres, hath sibe or six children, hath passed many evil daies, unquiet nights, and troubles aforesaid, hath his lusty youthfulness spent, so that it is now high time for him to repent: But such is his grosse folly that he cannot, and such his dulnesse, through the continuall vexations, which have tamed and wearied him, that hee cares not whatsoeber his wife saith or doth, but is hardned like an old oxe, which being used to the whip, will not once mend his pace bee hee lashed neuer so much

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much: The poore man seeth two or three of his daughters marriageable, which is soone knowne by their wanton trickes, their playing, dancing, and other youthfull toys, but he herpeth them backe, having perhaps small commings in, to keepe, maintaine, and furnish them as they looke for, with gownes, hertles, linnen, and other ornaments, as they should be for three causes: First that they may bee the sooner sued unto by lusty gallants: Secondly, because his denying hereof should nothing abaile: for his wife which knowes her daughters humours by her owne, when shee was of the like yeares, will see that they shall want nothing: Thirdly they peradventure, bearing right womens mindes, if their father keepe them short, will finde some other friends that shall afford it them. The poore man being thus perplexed on all sides, by reason of the excessive charges which he must be at, will (as it is likely) bee but honestly attired himselfe, not caring how he goes so he may but rub out, be it never so barely, and would bee glad to scape so: But as the fish in the pond, which would also thinke himselfe well, though wanting former liberty, if he might be suffered to continue, is cut off before his time: So is likewise this poore man serbed, being once plunged in the perplexing pond, or rather pound of wedlocke and house-keeping: for whosoever when he considers the aforesaid charges and troubles, he begins to have no joy of himselfe, and is no more moved than a tyred Jade, which forceth not for the spurre: Yet for the furnishing of his wife and daughters, so that he may have peace at home, and enjoy an easie bondage, hee must trudge up and downe early and late about his busynesse, in that course of life which he professeth.

Sometimes he journeyes thirty or forty miles off, about his affaires: Another time twike so farre to the Terme or Assises, concerning some old matter in law, which was begun by his grandfather, and not yet towards an end: hee puts on a paire of boots of seven yeares old, which have beene cobled so oft; that they are now a foot too short for him, so that the toppe of the boot reaches no further than the calfe of his legges, he hath a paire of spurs of the old making, whereof the one wants a rowell, and the other for want of leathers, is fastned to his foote with a point: Hee puts a laced coat on his backe, which he hath had six or seven yeeres, which he never wore but upon high-dayer, whose fashion is growne clean out of request, by reason of new indented garments: Whatsoever sports

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o; pleasures he lights on (by the way on his journey) he takes no ioy in them, because his minde is altogether on his troubles at home: he fares hard by the way, as also his pooze hoise (if he haue one) his man followes him in a turne suit, with a sword by his side, which was found under a hedge at the siege of Bulliene; he hath a coat on his backe, which ebery man may knowe was neuer made for him, o; he not present when it was cut out: so; the wings on his shoulders comes downe halfe way his arme, and the skirts as much below his waist; Wo bee thozt, the pooze man goeth ebery way as neare as may bee, so; hee remembers at what charges hee is at home, and knowes not what it will cost him, in seeing his Countelloze, Atturneyes, and Detty foggers, which will doe nothing without present pay: hee dispatcheth his businesse speedily, and hies him home with such hast, to avoid greater charges, that he rest no where by the way. And hereby it chanceth that many times hee comes home at such an houre, as is as neere morning as to night, and findes nothing to eat, so; his wife and servants are in bed, all which he takes patiently being now well used to such entertainment: Surely for my part, I thinke that God sends such aduersity and distresse to those onely whose good and milde nature hee knowes to be such, that they will take all things in good part.

But to proceed, it is very likely that the pooze man is very weary his heart heavy, by reason of the care and thought which he hath of his businesse: and it may be (he lookes to be welcome to his owne house, and there to refresh himselfe) howsoever hee forgets not his former usage. But it falls out otherwise, for his wife begins to chide, whose words carrie such a sway with the servants, that whosoever their master saith, they make small account of it: but if their mistress command any thing, it is presently done, and her humour followed in all things els: must they pake out of service: so that it bootes not him to bid them doe any thing, o; rebuke them for not doing it: And his pooze man that hath beene with him dares not likewise open his mouth to call for any viuals to comfort himselfe, o; for the hoises, least they should suspect him to bee of his masters faction (who being wise, and of a quiet mild nature) is loath to make any stirre, o; breed any dissension in the house, and therefore takes all in good part, and sits downe farre from the fire, though hee bee very cold: But his wife and children stand round about it, but all

their

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their eyes are cast on her, who looks on her husband with an angry countenance, not caring to provide ought for his supper: but contrariwise taunts him with sharp and shrewish speeches, whereof for the most part, he answers not a word, but sometimes (perhaps being urged through hunger or weariness, or the unkindness of his wife) he doth thus utter his mind. Well wife, you can look well enough to your self, but as for me, I am both weary and hungry, having neither eaten nor drunk all this day, and being beside wet to the very skin, yet you make no reckoning to provide any thing for my supper.

Ah (quoth she) you do well to begin first, lest I should, which hath most cause to speak: have you not done very well (think ye) to take your man with you, and leave me no body to wash the clothes? Now before God, I have had more loss in my linen, than you will get this twelve month: Moreover, you shut the window some very well, did you not? When the Fox got in, and eat up four of my best brood hens, as you (to your cost will soon finde) by the masse, if you live long you will be the poorest of all your kinne. Well wife (saith the good man) use no such words, I pray you, God be thanked I have enough, and more shall have when it pleaseth him: and I tell you, I have good men of my kinne. But god, she, I know not where they be, nor what they are worth. Well (saith he) they are of credit and ability too. But for all that (quoth she) they do you small good. As much good (saith he) as any of yours. As any of mine (saith she) and that she spake with such a high note, that the house rung withall, saying: By cocks soul, were it not for my friends you would do but poorly.

Well good wife (saith he) let us leave this talke: Nay (saith she) if they heard what you said, they would answer you well enough. The good man holds his peace, fearing lest she should tell them, being of greater ability than he was; and besides, because he was loth that they should be offended with him. When one of the children falls a crying, and he perhaps which his father loved best, thereupon the mother presently took a rod, turned up the childe's tail, and whipt him well favourably; and the more to despight & anger her husband then for ought else. The good man being herewith somewhat moved, told her to leave beating the child, shewing by his bended brows that he was not a little angry at her doings. Now gye with a murren (quoth she) you are not troubled with them, they cost you nothing, but it is

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That hath all the pains with them night and day. Then comes in the quicke with her verbid, and thus she begins, saying: O sir, you know not what a hard she hath with them, & we also that terro them. Then comes in the chamber maid with her stee eye, In good faith sir it is a shame for you, that at your coming home, when all the whole house should be glad thereof, that you should contrariewise put it thus out of quiet: saith he, (As it is that make this Sir)

Then is the whole household against him, when he seeing himselfe thus baited on all sides, (and the match so unequal,) gets him to bed quietly without his supper, all wet and dirty; or if he do sup, he hath but thin fare: and being in bed where he should take his rest, he is so disgusted with the children, whom the nurse and his wife do on purpose set on crying, to anger him the more, that for his life he cannot sleep one wink.

Thus is he heron with continuall troubles, wherewith he seemeth to be well-pleased, and would notwithstanding he might be free from them, but doth therein spend his miserable and unhappy life.

CHAP. V. The humour of a woman that marries her inferiour by birth.

A woman inclined to another kinde of humour, which is when the husband hath been married, and hath passed so many troubles, that he is wearied therein, his lusty youthfull blood growne cold, is matched with a wife of better birth than himselfe, and perhaps younger, both which things are very dangerous, and no wise man should seek his own spoile, by wrapping himselfe in either of those bonds, because they are so repugnant, that it is both against reason and nature to accord them. Sometimes they have children, sometimes they have none; yet this notwithstanding, the wife can take no paines, yet must be maintained according to her degree, to the husbands exceeding charges: so the furnishing wherof, the poor man is forced to take extreme toile and paines, and yet for all this thanks God for purchasing him so great a grace, as to be matched with her: If now and then they grow to hot words together (as oft it happens) then presently in upbraiding and menacing sort she tels him, that her friends did not match her to him to be his dudge, and that she knows well enough of what lineage she is come, and will
by

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bring with that that when she list to write to her friends and kind men,
 they will presently fetch her away. Thus both she keep him in awe,
 and in a kinde of subduer, by telling him of them, who would per-
 haps have matcht her better, and not with him, but so; some pryde
 scape that she hath had before, whereof the poore soule knows no-
 thing, or if perhaps he hath heard some inkling thereof, yet because he
 is simple, the credit that he might give the countesse quickly dasht, by
 a contrary tale of others suborn'd by them, who perchance will not
 stick to sweare that this is a slander raised by evil tongues, and
 forged maliciously against her as the like is done against many other
 good women, whose good names are wronged, and brought in question
 by bad persons on their tripping bench because themselves cannot ob-
 taine their purpose of them: notwithstanding, if her husband be not
 able to maintain her according to her minde, then will she be sure to
 have a friend in those that shall afford it her, if her husband deny it,
 and in the end she remembers that such a gentleman at such a feast
 proffered her a Diamond, or sent her by a messenger some twenty or
 thirty crownes, which she as then refused, but now purposeth to give
 him a kinde glance to renew his affection, in conceiving some bet-
 ter hope, and meeting soon after with her chambermaid, as she is
 going about some business, calls to her saying: Sister I would
 faine speak with you. Sir quoth she say what you please. You know
 (quoth he) that I have long loved your mistress, without obtaining
 any favour: but tell me I pray you, did she never speak of me in your
 hearing? In saith she (saith he) never but well: I dare sweare she wil-
 lyes you no harme. W. soye God sister, saith the Gentleman, if you
 will shew me some kindnesse herein, and do my commendations to
 your mistress, assuring her of my love and loyalty, it shall be worth
 a new gowne unto you, mean while take this in earnest; with that
 he offers her a peece of gold, she then making a low curtesie, saith; Sir,
 I thank you for your good will, but I will not take it; W. my sister,
 saith he, but you shall, and with that he forceth it on her, adding these
 words, I pray you let me hear from you so morrow morning. She
 being glad of such a booty, hies her home, and tels her mistress how she
 met with a gentleman that was in a passing good vein, & to be short,
 after some questions aske by her mistress, it appears to be the very
 same man whom she would faine entrap. I tell thee, saith she to her
 maid, if he be as kind as he is proper, he will be worthy to be any w-

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maid fit
such a
trifle.

mans love. *Belêbe me mistress (saith the maid) his very countenance* shewes that he is kinde, it seems that he was only made for love, and
Wit hall he is wealthy, and thereby able to maintain her beauty and
 her person in *hazard* whom he affects. *By this light (saith the mi-*
stris) I can get nothing of my husband. The more unlikie you (saith
the maid) to be so wed. Alas quoth she, what shall I do? I have had
him so long, that I cannot now set my heart on any other. Tush
(quoth the maid) if is a folly for any woman to set her heart so on any
man, for you know they care not how they use us when they are
once lords over us. Beside your husband, though he would, yet he can-
not maintain and keep you according to your degree: but be of whom
I speak will furnish and maintaine you gallantly, what garments
soever you will have: and what colour & fashion soever you like best
you shall presently have it, so that there wants nothing else, save on-
ly a quaint excuse to my Master, making him belêbe you had it
by some other means. By my troth quoth her Mistress, I know not
what to say. Well Mistress (saith the maid) advise you well, I
have prom. to give him an answer to morrow morning. Alas (saith
the other) how shall we do? Tush mistress, answers the maid, let me
alone: As I goe to morrow to the market, I am sure he will watch
to meet with me, that he may know what news: then I will tell
him that you will not agree to his desire so: feare of discredit, this
will give him a little hope, and so we shall fall into further talke, and
I doubt not but to handle the matter well enough. According to
promise next morning to market she hies, somewhat more ear y-
than she was wont, and by the way she meets with this lusty gallant,
who hath waited for her at least three houres: he hath no sooner spied
her, but he presently makes towards her, and at her coming thus
salutes her: Sister, good morrow, what news I pray, and how doth
your fair Mistress? In saith she, (saith she) she is at home very pen-
sive, and out of patience: I think that never any woman had such
a froward husband. Ah villain (saith he) the Devill take him.
Amen (saith the maid) for both my mistress and all the servants
are weary with carrying with him. Out on him saith (saith he)
but I pray you tell me what answer gave your Mistress touching
my suit? In saith (quoth she) I spake unto her, but she would
not agree therunto, for she is wonderfully afraid to purchase her
self discredit, and is besides plagued with such a froward and suspicious

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tfous husband, and although she were never so willing, yet could she not, being continually watcht by him, his mother and brethren: I thinke on my conscience unlesse that it were that she spake to you the other day, the poore woman talkt not with any man these foure months: yet shee speaks very often of you, and I am well assured, that if she would bend her minde to love, she would chuse you before all men in the world. He being ravished with these words, replies thus: Sweet sister, I pray you be my friend herein, and I will alwayes rest at your command. In good faith (saith shee) I have done more so, you already, then ever I did for any man in my life. And thinke not (saith he) that I will be unmindfull of your kindnesse, but what would you counsell mee to doe? In faith sir (saith shee) I thinke it best that you should speake with her your selfe, and now you have an excellent opportunity, for my master hath refused to give her a gowne, whereat shee stomps not a little, you shall doe well therefore to bee too morrow at the Church, and there salute her, telling her boldly your desire; you may also offer her what you thinke good, but I know shee will take nothing: marry shee will thinke the better of you, knowing thereby your franke and bountifull nature. D (saith he) I would shee would gladly take that which I would gladly bestow on her. Pay answers the maid, I know shee will not, for you never know a more honest woman: but Ile tell y^e how y^e may doe it afterwards: Looke what you purpose to bestow on her, you shall deliver unto mee, I will doe my best to perswade her to take it, but I cannot assure you that I shall prevail. Surely sister (saith shee) this is very good counsell, here withall they part, and shee returns home, laughing to her selfe; which her mistress seeing, demands of her the cause thereof. Marry (saith the maid) this lusty gentleman is all on fire, to morrow he will be at Church, purposing there to speake with you: now must you demean your selfe wisely, and make very strange of it, but stand not off too much, lest you dishonour him cleane; as you will not wholly grant, so must you keepe him with some hope. Shee having her lesson thus taught by her maid, gets her up betimes the next morning, and to the Church shee goes, where this amorous Gallant hath waited for her comming ever since foure a clocke. She being set in her pew, makes shew as if shee were devoutly at her prayers, when (God wot) her devouting is bent to the service of

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another Saint: it were worth the noting to see how like a image she sits: and yet for all her demureness she applies all her senses, and that full zealously in this new humour of religion. To be short, he steals unto her, insaking unto her, from the belfrey unto her pew, and being come greets her after the amorous order, and from greeting, hee falls to courting, whereto shee doth in no wise yield consent, neither will shee take ought that he offers, yet answers him after such a sort that he doth assuredly gather that she loveth him thereby and sticks onely for fear of discredit: whereto he is not a little locond, and having spent his time to so good a purpose, he takes his leave, and shee hastning home to her counsellour, acquaints her what hath passed between them, who thereupon takes occasion to say thus; Spirits, I know well that now he longs to speak with me, but at our meeting I will tell him that you will yield to nothing, for which I will saie my self sorry. And I will adde withall, that my Master is gone out of towne, and will appoint him to come hither towarde the evening, with promise that I will let him in, and convey him so secretly into your chamber, that you shall know nothing thereof. At what time you must seem to be highly offended, and if you be wise, you will make him buy his pleasure with some cost, which will cause him to esteem the more of you: Tell him that you will cry out, and then do you call me: By handling him thus, I can assure you that you shall get more of him, than if you had peelded at the first. All this while I will have in my keeping that which he will give you, for he hath appointed to deliver it me to morrow, and I will make him beleave, that you would by no means take it. But when the matter is brought to this passe, then will I make shew to offer you his gift before him, telling you that he is willing to bestow it on you, to buy you a gown/cloth withall: Then must you chide, and seeme to be angry with me for receiving it, charging me to deliver it back again to him, but be sure I will lay it up safe enough. Well dobbled wench (saith the Spirits) I am content it shall be so. This plot being thus laid, the crafty wench goes presently to find out this silly Gallant, whose first words are, What news?

Good in good faith Sir (saith she) the matter is no further forward, then if it were yet to begin: yet because I have meddled so far with it, I would be loth I should not bring it about, for I fear that she will complaine of me to her husband and friends; but if I could per-
swade

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I wade her by any means to receiue your gifts, then out of question the matter were dispatch; and in good faith she is once more: I haue one good help, and that is this: my master (as I told you before) will not giue her a new gowne, at which unkindnesse, she is: as mightily.

She hee then hearing this, giues her presently twenty reasons for her good wil, whereupon she speaks thus: In good faith sir, I know not how it cometh to passe, but sure I am, I neuer did so much for any man before, as I haue done herein for you: And, for this, what danger I haue put my selfe in for your sake; for if my master should haue any inchling of it, I were utterly undone: yet for you I will hazard a little further: I know she loves you well, and as good hap is, my master is not now in town, if you therefore will be about the dore towards six of the clock at night, I will let you in, and so conuey you secretly into my mistresses chamber; who doth sleep very soundly; for you know she is but young: being there I could wish you goe to bed to her, and so the rest you need not (I trust) any tutor: I protest that I know no other means for the compassing of this matter, perhaps it will succeed: For it is a great matter when a lover and his mistress are met together naked in the darke, which doth help forward a womans conceit to that which in the day time perhaps she would hardly grant. My sweet friend (quoth he) for this kindnesse my purse shall be at thy command. To be short, night comes, he is there according to promise, whom she straight conueyes into her mistresses chamber, then he presently uncloathes himselfe, and steps softly into her bed, and being once in, he begins to embrace her; hereat she (that seems till then asleep) starts up on a sudden, and with a full voice askes a ho is there? it is I sweet mistress, saith he, fear nothing. Ah (quoth she) think you to prebail thus? No, no, and with that she makes as though she would rise, and call her mate, who answers not a word, but alas, for pity like an induricall forbant leades her at her greatest need. She therefore (good woman) seeing that she is forsaken, says with a sigh, Ah me, I am betrayed: then begin they a stout battell, hee urging his advantage, she faintly resisting, but alas, what can a naked woman doe against a resolute lover: there is therefore no other remedy, but that at length (poore soule) being out of breath with striving, she must needs yield to the stronger, she would faine haue cried out (God wot) had it not been for feare of discredit:

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years wa-
ges, and
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Just as Jer-
mans lips.

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credit: for thereby her name might have been brought in question, therefore all things considered, she doth willingly, God knows, let him supply her husbands place, garnishing his Temples, for pure good will, with Aescions badge. Thus hath she got, a new gowne, which her good man refused to give her, to bleare whole eyes, and keepe him from suspicion, she gets her mother in her husbands sight to bring home the cloth and give it her, as though it were her cost, and lest also he should suspect any thing, she makes her believe she bought it with the money which she got by selling odder commodities which her husband knew not of: But it may be (and oft happens so) that the mother is party to the whole matter, and a furtherer thereof. After this gowne she must have another, and two or three gold embroidered girdles and other such costly knacks, which the husband seeing, will in the end suspect somewhat, and begin to doubt of his wives honesty, or shall perhaps receive some advertisement thereof from some friend or kinsman: for no such matter can be long kept close, but in the end will by some means or other be made known and discovered: When falls he into a franticke vein of jealousy, watching his Wives close packing; and for the better finding it out, hee comes home on a sudden about midnight, thinking then to discover all, and yet perhaps may misse his purpose. Another time coming in at unawares hee seeth something that he likes not, and then in a fury falls on railing, but be sure that she answers him home, not yielding an inch unto him; for besides the advantage of the sight, which is waged by her own trusty weapon (her tongue I mean) she knowing with all that she is of better birth, hits him in the teeth therewith and threatens him to tell her friends how hardly hee doth use her. To be short, the worse man shall never have good day with her, but either with thought of her incontinency, or if he speake to her, hee is beaten downe with scolding lyes, and despised of his owne servants: his state runs to ruine, his wealth decays, his body dyes up, and wears away with grief, he growes desperate and careless. Thus is he plunged in Lobs porne, wearied in a world of discontents, wherein notwithstanding hee takes delight, having no desire to change his state, but rather if he were out, and knew what would follow, yet would he never rest till he had gotten in again, there to spend and end (as now he must) his life in grief and misery.

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CHAP. VI. The humour of a woman that strives
to master her husband.

THe next humour wherunto a woman is addicted, is, when the husband hath got a faire young wife, who is proper and fine, in whom he takes great delight: yet perhaps she is bent altogether to crosse and thwart: the man being of a kind and mild nature, loving her intirely, & maintaines her as well as he can, notwithstanding her forwardnes: It may be also that she hath care of his credit and honesty, and doth abhorre such lewdnesse, as she of whom he spake before did use, yet hath she neverthelesse an extreme desire of Sovereignty, (which is knowne a common fault amongst women) and to be her husbands commander, & a busie medler in his matters: be he a Judge, a Nobleman, or Gentleman, she will take upon her to give sentence, and answer suitors, and whatsoever she doth he must stand to it;

This is (I say) a generall imperfection of women, be they never so honestly, never so kindly used, and have never so much wealth and ease, to strive for the Breeches, and be in odde contrary humours, of purpose to keepe her Husband in continuall thought and care how to please her.

He gets him up betimes in the morning, leaving her in bed, to take her ease, while he stirs about the house and dispatcheth his business, looke to the servants that they lopter not, causeth dinner to be made ready, the cloth to be laid, and when all things are ready, he sends one to desire her to come downe, who brings backe answer that shee is not disposed to dine. A y^e (saith he) I will never sit downe, nor eat a bit till she be here: So receiving his second message by his maid, or perhaps by one of his childzen, replies thus: Go tell him again that I will not dine to day. H^e hearing this, is not yet satisfied, but sends likewise the third time, and in the end goes himselfe, and thus begins: How now, what ailes you wife, that you will eat no meat? hereto shee answers not a word. The poore man marvels to see her in this melancholly-dumpe, (although perhaps she hath plaid this pageant many times before) and useth all intreaty he may to know of her the cause thereof; but in vaine, for indeed there is no cause at all, but only a meere mockery: Sometimes he will persist so obstinately in this humor, that for all the persuasions and kindnesse that he can use, shee

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will not come. Sometimes it may be the will, and then he must lead her by the hand like a bride, and set her chaire ready for her, meane while it is so long before he can get her downe, that the meat is cold when it comes to the table. Being set, she will not eat one bit, and he seeing that (like a kind Ass) will fast likewise: whereat she smiles inwardly, having brought him so to her bow, first in crossing him, then in making him to fast from dinner: wherein (to say the truth) she hath reason, for what needs a woman to seeke his labour, who doth already love her, and shew her all the kindnesse that he can. Sometimes the good man riding abroad about his businesse, meets with two or three of his friends, with whom perhaps he hath some dealings, and hath bene long acquainted with them: It may be also that he invites them home to his house, as one friend will doe to another, and sends his man before to his wife to make all things ready in the best sort that she can for their intertainment: the poore serving-man gallops in such haste, that both himselfe and his horse is all on a sweat, when hee comes home he doth his errand to his mistresse, telling her withall that the guests which his master brings are men of good account. Now by my faith (saith she) I will not meddle in it, he thinks belike that I have nothing else to doe, but sudge about to prepare banquets for his companions, he should have come himselfe with a vengeance, and why did he not? Forsooth (saith the servant) I know not, but thus he bad me tell you. Goe too (saith she) you are a knave that meddles in more matters than you have thanke for. The poore fellow hearing this holds his peace, she in a fume flings up into her chamber, and which is worse, sends out her servants, some one way, some another: as for her maids, they have their lesson taught them well enough, knowing by custome how to behave themselves to weare their Master: well, he comes home with his aforesaid friends, calls presently for some of his servants: but one of the maids makes answer, of whom he demands whether all things be ready: In good faith Sir my Mistres is very sicke, and here is no body else can doe any thing: with that he being angry, leads his friends into the Hall, or some other place according to his estate, where he findes neither fire made, nor cloth laid. Judge then in what a taking he is, although it may be that his friends perceived by the sending of his man, that his commandments were not of such force as an act of Parliament. The good man being ashamed, calls and gapes first for

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one man, then for another, and yet for all this there comes none, except it be the scullion or some chare woman, that doth use his house, whom his wife hath left there of purpose, because shee knew they could serbe to doe nothing. Being herewith not a little moped, up he goes into his wifes chamber, and thus hee speaks unto her: Gods precious woman, why have you not done as I wold yee? Why (saith she) you appoint so many things to be done, that I know not what to doe. Before God (saith he) and with that he scratches his head, you have done me a greater displeasure than you thinke: these are the dearest friends that I have, and now here is nothing to set before them. Why (quoth she) what would you have it: to doe? I wis if you cast your cards well, you shall finde that we have no need to make banquets: I wold to God you were wiser, but sith you will needs be so lusty, even goe thozow with it your selfe on Gods name, for He not meddle with it. But what the devill meant ye (saith he) to send all the servants abroad? Why (quoth she) what did I know that you should need them now? yet did she know it well enough, and had of purpose sent them forth on sleebeleffe errands, the more to anger and dispiight him: who seeing that he can prebaille nothing, gives over talking to her, and gets him downe in a bitter chafe: for it may be that his guests be of such account, and he so much beholding unto them, that he had rather have spent an hundred crownes than it should so have fallen out. But she cares not a whit, being well assured, that howsoever she thwartes him, he will hold his hands, and in scolding she knowes her selfe to be the better. So be short, the poore man being bered with shame and anger, runs up and downe the house, gets as many of his servants together as he can: If his provision be but slender at home, he sends presently abroad, in the meane while he calls for a cleane towell, the best tablecloth, and wrought napkins. But the maid answers him that he can have none. Then up to his wife goes he againe, and tels her that his friends doe intreat her to come downe and beare them company, shewing her what a shame it is and how discourteously they will take it if she come not: And finally, he useth all the fairest speeches that he can to have her come, and to welcome and entertaine them for his credits sake. Nay, in faith (quoth shee) I will not come, they are too great states for my company, and no doubt they wold scorne a poore woman as I am: It may be she will goe, but in such sort, and with such a countenance,

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that it had bene better for him she had not come at all, for his friends will not what perceive by her looks, and gesture, that howsoever they be welcome to this good man, shee had rather have their roome than their company. But if shee refuse to come (as it is the more likely) then will hee aske her for the best towell, table cloth, and napkins. Papkins (quoth she) as though those that be abroad already be not good enough for greater and better men than they are: when my brother or any of my kinsmen come, which are I wis their equals in every respect, they can be content to be served with them: but were these your guests never so great, yet could I not now fulfill your request, though my life should lye on it: for since morning I have lost my keyes of the great chest where all the linnen lies: I pray you bid the maid looke for them, for in good truth I know not what I have done with them, and no marvell, for I have so much to doe, that I know not how to bestirre my selfe: well I wot, I have spoiled my selfe with continuall care and trouble.

Now in good faith (quoth he) you have dzest me fairely, but it is no matter: Before God I'll breake open the Chest: Now surely then (quoth she) you shall doe a great act, I would faine see you doe it, I would for my part you would breake all the Chests in the house. The poore man hearing her in these terms, knowes not well what to do, but takes that which he next lightes on, and therefore dricks as well as he can; he causeth his guests to sit downe at the table, and because she heere then abroach is on tilt, and therfore not very good, he bids one of the servants brooch a new barrell and fill some fresh drinke, but then there is neither tap nor spigget to be found, for his wife of purpose hath hidden them out of the way. Towards the end of the dinner he asks for cheese, and fruit, but there is none in the house, so that he is faine to send to the neighbours for the same, or else be utterly destitute: mean while his boy being at the table with the guests at last tells them how his mistresse faines her selfe sicke, because shee is not pleased with their pasters comming. Well, when bed time comes, he can get no cleane sheets nor pillowbeere, because forsooth the keyes are lost, so that they must be content to lye in those that be foule, and have bene long lathe in. The next morning they get them gone betimes, seeing by the good wifes countenance that they are nothing welcome. By the way their lackies tell them what the Gen-
tlemans boy reported, whereat they laught heartily, yet finde them-
selven

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selbes agreeded, b^e owing neuer to be his guest any more. The husband also getting him up betimes in the morning, goes presently to his wife, and thus begins: My Iesus wife, I muste tell you what you meane to use me thus. I know not how to liue with you. Then she replies, saying: How God for his mercy, am I so troublesome? God wot I am ebery day (poore soules) troubled with keeping your hogs, your geese, your chickens, I must card, I must spin, and continually keepe the house, looke to the seruants, and neuer sit still, but toying a waynt downe to shortening dayes, and make me day before my time, and yet I cannot haue one houtes rest or quietnes with you, but you are alwayes bawling, and doe nothing your selfe, but spend and waste your goods and mine with odde companions. What odde companions (saith he) as though you knew not that there are such men, as can either much further or much hinder me: It is a signe that you deale very well, that you must stand in distresse of such persons. Whereupon he taken occasion to raile and scold all the day long: the man being wearied with her backwardnesse, and age (being bated with griefe and sorrow) doth unawares ouertake him. Lastly, he is in ebery respect wearied: but such is his folly, that he reckons his paines pleasure, and would not though he might be againe at liberty, out of fiftie pound, as if he would it is new too late: for he must of force continue there, in care, thought, and misery, till death make an end of him and them together.

CHAP. VII. The humour of a covetous minded Woman.

The next humour belonging to a Woman is, when the Husband is matched to a modest civill woman, who is nothing given to that thwarting and crossing humour whereof I spake before. But be the good or bad, this is a generall rule, many wives hold and steadfastly beleeve that their owne Husbands are worst of all others. It oft happens that when they match together, they are both young, and entertaine each other with mutuall delights, so much as may be, for a yeere or two, or longer, till the vigour of youth grow cold. But the woman droopes not so soone as the man: the reason whereof is, because she takes no care, thought, no griefe, grieues not her sleep, and troubles not her head as he doth, but doth wholly aduise her thoughts to

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to pleasure and solace. I deny not, that when a woman is with child she bides many times great paines, and is often very ill at ease, and at the time of her deliverance, shee is for the most part, not onely in exceeding paine, but also in no lesse danger of death: But all this is nothing to the husbands troubles, on whose hands alone doth rest the whole charge, and weight of maintaining the house, and dispatching all matters, which is oftentimes intangled so with controuersies, and so thwarted with crosse fortune, that the poore man is tormented with all variation of minde.

Being thus wearied, and as it were trozne away with continuall griefe, troublous cogitations, toyle and trabel, he hath no mind on any other pleasure: whereas she on the other side is as lusty as euer she was: meane while his stock decays, and his state growes worse and worse: and as that diminisheth, so hee must perforce shorten her allowance and maintenance, which is almost as great a Corosion to her, as the former: You may be well assured, that this change in him makes her also change her countenance, from mirth and cheerefulness, to lowering melancholy, seeking occasions of disagreements, and use them in such sort, that their former love and kindnesse was not so great, as are now their hatreds, iarres, and discords. It doth also oftentimes happen, that the Woman by this meanes wastes and consumes all, giuing lewdly away her Husbands goods, which he with great paines and cares hath gotten. The good man, hee goes ebery way as neere as hee can, and warily containes himselfe within his bounds, casting up what his yearly rebendes are, or what his gaine is by his profession bee it merchandice or other, and then what his expences be: which he finding greater than his commings in, begins to bite the lip and becomes very peniue: his wife and he being afterwards priuate together in their chamber, he speaks thereof unto her in this manner: In faith wife, I much marbell how it comes to passe that our goods goe away thus, I know not how: I am sure I am as carefull as a man can be, I cannot finde in my heart to bestow a new cloake on my selfe, and all to seke money. By my troth Husband (saith shee) I doe as much marbell at it as you, I am sure for mine owne part, that I goe as neere in house-keeping ebery way as I can.

To be short, the poore man not doubting his wife, nor suspecting her ill carriage, after long care and thought concludes, that the cause thereof is his owne ill fortune, which keeps him downe, and crosseth

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all his actions with contrary successe, but it may bee that in proceſſe of time, ſome friend of his (being more cleere ſighted in the matter) perceiving all goes not well, doth priuily informe him thereof, who being aſtoniſhed at his report, gets him home with a heavy countenance, which the wife ſeeing, and knowing her ſelfe guilty, begins preſently to doubt the worſt, and perhaps gheſſeth ſhe twoly at the authors thereof, but howſoever ſhe will take ſuch an order, that ſhe will be ſure to eſcape the bzunt well enough.

The good man will not preſently make any words hereof unto her, but deferre it a while, and trie in the meane time whether hee can (of himſelfe) gather any further likelihood: for which purpoſe he will tell her that he muſt needs ride ſome ten or twelue-miles out of London, about ſome earneſt buſineſſe. Good ſaith Husband (ſaith ſhe) I had rather you ſhould ſend your man; and ſtay at home your ſelfe. Not ſo wiſe (ſaith he) but I will be at home againe my ſelfe with in theſe three or foure dayes, having told her this tale, hee makes as though he tooke his iourney, but doth priuily lye in ambuſh in ſuch a place, where he may know whatſoever is done in the houſe: But ſhe ſmelling his diſt, ſends word to her ſweet heart, that hee doe not come in any caſe, and all the time of his diſſembled abſence, ſhe carries her ſelfe ſo, that it gibes no likelihood of ſuſpicion: which the ſilly man ſeeing, comes out of his ambuſh, enters his houſe, making as if then hee were returned from his iourney: and whereas befor hee loozed, now he ſhewes a cheerefull countenance, being verily perſwaded that his friends report is a meere lye, and that he thinks ſo much the rather, becauſe ſhe doth at his coming run to meet him, with ſuch a ſhew of love, and doth ſo embrace and kiſſe him, that it ſeemes impoſſible ſo kinde a Creature ſhould play falſe: But long after (being in bed together,) he thus ſpeakes to her:

Wiſe, I haue heard reported certaine words that like mee not. Good ſaith Husband (ſaith ſhe) I know not what is the cauſe thereof: I haue noted this great while that you haue bin very penſiue, & was afraid that you had had ſome great loſſe, or that ſome of your friends had bene kiſt, or taken by the Spaniards. No (ſaith he) that is not the matter, but a thing which grieues me more than any ſuch matter can doe. Now God for his mercy (quoth ſhe) I pray you Husband let me know what it is. Worry wiſe (ſaith he) a friend of mine told me that you kept company with R.R. the beſieft Ruſſian in all the towne,
and

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and a many other matters he told me of you. He eat the crossing her
 selfe in token of admiration (though smiling inwardly) replies thus:
 Deere Husband, if this be all, then I pray you giue ober your pen-
 siveness: I would to God I were as free from all other sins, as I
 am from that, then laying one hand on her head, she thus proceeds: I
 will not sweare any thing touching him, but I would the dettill had
 all that is under my hand, if I eber touched any mans mouth saving
 yours, or some of our friends and kinsmen, or such at least as you
 haue commanded me. Ha, ha, is this the matter? In troth I am
 glad that you haue told me: I had verily thought it had bene some
 greater matter, but I know well enough whereupon these speeches
 grow, and I would that you did likewise know, what moved him to
 speake them, I know you would not a little marvell, because he hath
 alwayes professed such friendship towards you. In good faith I am
 nothing forry that he hath awaked the sleeping Dog. What meane
 you by that word (quod he?) Nay (quoth she) be not desirous to know it,
 you shall know it soone enough some other time. Birlady (saith he)
 He know it now. By my troth husband (saith she) I was oft won-
 derfully angry when you brought him in hither, yet I forbore to
 speake of it, because I saw you lobed him so well. But speake now
 (saith she) and tell me what the matter is? Nay nay (quod she) it kills
 not greatly. Goe too wife (saith the good man) tell me, for I will
 know it. When takes she him about the necke, and sweetely kissing
 him, saith thus: Oh my deere Husband, what villaines are these that
 haue seems to abuse you, whom I honour and love aboue all men in
 the world. Well (saith he) I pray thee tell me the man that so
 misuseth us. In troth (quoth she) that vile dissembling Traitor, that
 flattering tell tale, that put this bad report in your eares, whom you
 esteeme so much: reposing such great confidence in him, he is the only
 man, and none but hee, that hath earnestly urged me any time this
 three yeeres to commit folly with him. But God (I praesse him) hath
 giuen me grace both to refuse him and his offers, although I were
 continually scoulded and importuned by him: I wis, when you
 thought he came hither so often for your sake, it was for this cause,
 for neuer at time that he came, but he was in hand with me to obtaine
 his filthy desire, till in the end I thzeamed to tell you of it, but I was
 loth to do it, fearing to breed a quarrell betweene you, so long as I
 was sure to keepe him from doing you herein any injury: Beside,

Oh brave
 dissembler.

Almost as
 bad as su-
 das kisses.

The devill
 take the
 liar.

Thus is he
 board tho-
 row the
 nose with
 a cushion.

The Batchelers Banquet.

I had still a good hope, that he would at length give over, I wis it was no fault of his that hee sped not. Gods for my life (saith the good man) being in a great rage, what a treacherous villaine is this? I would never have suspected any such matter in him, for I durst have put my life in his hands. By this light Husband (saith she) if ever he come moze within the doores, or If ever I may know that you have any talke with him, He keepe house no longer with you. Ah deere Husband, and with that she clips and cu's him again about the neck, Should I be so disloyall as to abuse you in this sort? so sweet, so amiable, so kinde a man, who lets me have my will in all things? God forbid I should live so long to become a strumper how. But for Gods sake Husband, forbid him your house, with whom this knave hath slandered me withall, yet I would the devil had me if ever he made such motion to mee: nevertheless, by Gods grace he shall not come hence forth in any place where I am, and with that shee begins to weepe, and he (kinde soul) doth appease and comfort her, promising and swearing that he will doe as she will have him sae only that he will not forbid him his house, with whose company the other had charged her, and withall he vowes never to believe any moze of these reports: no; so much as to hearken to any such tales againe, notwithstanding he still feels a scruple of suspicion in his conscience: Within a while hee begins to fall at defiance with his honest friend, who informed him of his wifes wantonnesse, and he seemes to be so deeply besotted with her love, that you would say hee were transformed without enchantment, into Acteons shape: His charge of House-hold still increaseth, he hath many Children, and is perplexed on every side; but his wife follows her pleasure farre moze than before, for though it be never so openly knowne, yet will no man tell him thereof, because they know that he will not beleve them, and (which is moze ridiculous) hee that abuseth him most, shall be most welcom to him of any. To be short, age will overtake him, and perhaps poverty, from the which hee shall never be able to raise himselfe. Doe here the great good and pleasures that he hath gotten by entering into Lobs pound every man mockes him: some say it is pittie because he is a honest man: others say, it is not a matter to be scorned for, sith it is the common rule of such. Wherof the better sort will scorne his company. Thus lives he in paine, griefe, and disgrace, which hee takes for great pleasure, and therein will continue till death cut him off.

As kin
a Sea-g
seazing
a dead
rion.

The Batchelers Banquet.

CHAP. VIII. The humour of a woman that still desires to be gadding abroad.

THe next humour of a woman is, when the husband hath beene in Lotts pound some sibe or six peeres, part whereof he hath spent in such pleasure as wedlocke doth at the first allowd, but now the date of these delights is out, he hath perhaps some three or foure children: but his wife is now big againe, and a great deale worse of this wilde than she was of any other: whereat she poots man grieves not a little, who takes great paines to get her that which shee longs for: "well, the time of her lying downe drawes neere, and shee is wonderfully out of temper: so that it is greatly feared that she will hardly escape: When shee is on his knees and prays devoutly for his wiffe, who come after is brought to bed, wherefore he is not a little ioyous, making sure account that God hath heard his prayers. Shee-gossips, kind-women and neighbours, come in troopes to visit and rejoyce for her safe delivery. Shee for her part wants no good cherishing, whereby she recovers her strength, and is as fresh and lusty as ever she was.

After her Churching, shee is invited by some of her neighbours, who also invites sibe or six others of her neighbours and friends, who is receibed and feasted with all kindenesse, which Banquet doth perhaps cost her Husband more than would have kept the house a whole fortnight: Amongst other she propounds a question and makes a match to goe all together to a certaine faire, which will bee within ten dayes at such a place, to the which place they shall have a most brave and pleasant journey, by reason of the faire weather, for they will allwaies conclude such an agreement in some of the best seasons of the yeere, and she takes upon her to make this motion, chiefly in regard of her Gossip, which was lately brought a bed, that she may after her long paine and travell somewhat recreate and refresh her selfe. But she answers her with thanks for her good will, saying, she knows not how to get leave of her Husband: What (saith the other) that is the least matter of a thousand. Truly Gossip (saith another) stand not upon that, we will all goe and be merry, and we will have with us my Gossip G.T. my Cousin H.S. though perhaps he be nothing kinde to her: But this is their ordinary phrase, and they undertake this journey, because they cannot so well obtaine their purposes.

The Batchelers Banquet.

at home, being too neere their Husbands noses. After this agreement, home she comes with a heaby countenance: The good man asketh what she aileth. Harry (quoth she) the Child is very ill at ease, (though he were never in better health since he was borne) his flesh burnes as though it were fire, and as the Purse tells me, he hath refused the dug these two dayes, although she durst not say so much till now. He hearing this, and thinking it true, is not a little sorry, goes presently to see his Child, and weepes for pittie.

Well, night comes, to bed they goe, and then she fetching a sigh, begins thus: Husband, I see you have forgotten me. How means you that (saith he:) Harry (quoth she) doe you not remember that when I was in childbed you said, that if it pleased God that I escaped, I should goe to such a Faire with my Gossips and neighbours to make merry, and cheere up my selfe, but now I heare you not talke of it. In troth wife (saith he) my head is troubled with so many matters, and such a deale of businesse, that I have no leisure to thinke on any thing else: but there is no time past yet, the Faire will not be this fortnight. By my troth (quoth she) I shall not be well unless I goe. Well wife (saith he) content your selfe: for if I can by any means get so much money ye shall goe. You knowe it is not little that wee shall spend there: yea more I wis than will be my ease to lay out. Good Christ (quoth she) is it now come to that: you promised me absolutely, without either ifs or ands: before God I will goe, whether you will or no: for there goes my Mother, my Gossip T. my Cousin B. and my Cousin R. and his wife. If you will not let me goe with them, I knowe not with whom you will let me goe. He hearing her thus wilfull, thinke it best for his owne quietnesse, to let her goe, though he strain his purse somewhat the more. The time comes, her hires horses, buyes her a new riding gowne, and doth furnish her according to her mind: peradventure there goes in their company a lusty Gallant, that will frolicke if by the way on her Husbands cost, for his purse must pay for all. It may be he will himselfe, because he hath never a man, or else cannot spare him from his trocke. But then is the poore man notably perple red, for she will on purpose trouble him for every trifle more than she would doe to another: because it doth her good to make a budge of him; and so much the rather, that he may not afterwards have any desire to goe abroad with her againe.

Sometimes her stirrop is too long, sometimes too short: and her

The Batchelers Banquet.

must still alight to make it sit: sometimes she will weare her clocke; sometimes not, and then he must carry it: When shee finds the fault with her Horses trotting, which makes her sicke, and then she will alight and walke on foote, leaving him to lead the Horses: Within a while after they come to a water, then must he be trouble to helpe her up againe. Sometimes shee can eat nothing that is in the Inne, then must he (being weary all day with riding) trudge up and downe all the Towne, to finde something that will set her stomacke: All which notwithstanding, she will not be quiet: and not she onely, but her Gossips also will be bobbing and quibbing him, saying, that he is not worthy to be a womans man. But he is so inured to these janglings, that he cares not for all their scitulous words,

Well at length to the faire they come, and then must he play the Squier in going before her; making so much come for them as he can, when there is any thing or presse of people, being very chary of his witte, lest she should be hurt or annoyed by thrusting. There moyle he like a Horse, and sweats like a Bull, yet cannot all this please her. Some Dames of the company, which are more sushy in clothes, than her good man, bestowes money on gold Rings, Vets, like Circles, Jewels, or some such toys yea, costly to, as which she no sooner sees, but presently she is on fire, untill she hate the like: Then must he herein contente her (if he love his owne ease) and have he money or not, some shift must be made to satissie her humour. Well now imagine them going homewards, and thinke his paine and trouble no lesse, then it was coming forth: her Horse perhaps doth flounder much or trots so hard, which is peradventure by reason of an aile in his foot, or some other mischance. Then must he perforce buy, or hire another Horse; and if he have not money enough to doe so then must he let her ride on his, and he trot by her side like a Lac-
key. By the way she will aske for twenty things, for milke, because she cannot away with their drinke; for paires, plumbs, and cherries: When they come nere a Towne, he must run before to chuse out the best Inne: ever and anon as she rides, she will of purpose let fall her wand, her mask, and gloves, or something else for him to take up, because she will not have him tole: When they are come home, she will for a fortnight together doe nothing els but gad up and downe amongst her Gossips, to tell them how many gay and strange things she hath sene, all that hath passed by the way, in going and coming:

but,

The Batchelers Banquet.

but especially of her good man, whom she will be sure to blame, saying that he did her no pleasure in the world, and that she poore soule being sicke and weary, could not get him to helpe her, or to provide any thing for her that she liked: And finally, that he hath had no more care of her, than if she had bene a mere stranger.

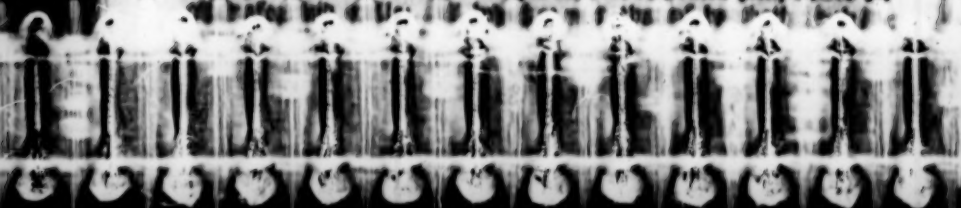
But he (poore sort,) finding at his returne, all things out of order, is not a little troubled to set them in due frame againe, and toyles exceedingly at his labour, that he may recover his charges which he hath bene at in this journey. But she what for Gossiping, for Joking, and Jolennesse, will not set her hands to any thing: And yet if ought goes well, she will say it was through her heedlesnesse, & good husbandry: If otherwize, then will she scold and lay the fault thereof on him, although it be her owne doings. To be short, having thus gotten a vaine of gabbling she will never leave it, and hereby the poore man will be utterly spoiled for both his substance shall be wasted, his limbes through labour fill with aches, his feet with the gout, and age comes on him before his time; yet as though this were not enough, she will be continually brawling, scolding, & complaining, how she is broken through child-bearing. Thus is the silly man up to the eares in Robs pound, being on each side beset with care and trouble, which he takes for pleasure, and therein languisheth while he lives.

CHAP. IX. The humour of a curst Queane, married to a froward Husband.

The next humour that is incident to a Woman, is, when the Husband having entred very young into Robs pound, and there settled himselfe by his too much folly, for a vaine hope of ticklish delights, which lasted but for a yere or two, hath matched himselfe with a very froward and perverse Woman (of which sort there are too many) whose whole desire is to be mistress, & to were the breeches, or at least to beare as great a sway as himselfe. But he being crafty and withall crabbed, will in no wise suffer this usurped soveraignty, but with many matters withstands it. And there hath bene great strife and arguing about this matter betwene themselves, and now and then some battels: but doe she what she can, either with their tongue or hands, notwithstanding their long controversie, which hath perhaps lasted at the least these twenty yeres, he is still victorious and holds his right: but you must thinke that his striving for it all this while,

• The Bachelors Banquet.

While, bath being no small trouble and vexation unto him, he did call
all his friends and kinsmen to him, and they did come to him, and



The Batchelers Banquet.

must still alight to make it sit: sometimes she will weare her clock^e, sometimes nat, and then he must carry it: When findes she fault with her Hozes trotting, which makes her sicke, and then she will alight and walke on foote, leading him to lead the Hozes: Within a while after they come to a water, then must he be trouble to helpe her up againe. Sometimes shee can eat nothing that is in the Inne, then must he (being weary all day with riding) trun ge up and downe all the Towne, to finde something that will fit her stomacke: All which notwithstanding, she will not be quiet: and not she onely, but her Gossips also will be bobbing and quibbing him, saying, that he is not worthy to be a womans man. But he is so insured to these janglings, that he cares not for all their scittolous words,

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The Batchelers Banquet.

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CHAP. IX. The humour of a curst Queane, married to a froward Husband.

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• The Batchelers Banquet.

while, hath bene no small trouble and vexation unto him, beside all other aforesaid evils: All which of part thereof he hath likewise endured: Well, to be short, he hath perchance three or foure children all married, and by reason of the great pains and travell that he hath taken in bringing them up, providing them portions, maintaining his wife, increasing his stocke, or at least keeping it from being diminished, and living with credit amongst his neighbours: At last it may be he hath gotten the gout, or some other dangerous disease, and his body is growne old, and thereby feeble: so that being set, he can hardly rise, though an ash that he hath got in his armes or legs: When in their long warre come to an end, and the case (as Ployden saith) cleane altered: For his wife being younger than he, and as friske as ever she was, will now be sure to have her owne will in despite of his beard: Whereby the poore man which hath maintained the combat so long, is now utterly put downe: his owne children, which before hee kept in awe well enough, will now take heart to themselves, and if he reprove them for their lewdnesse and disobedience, she will maintaine them against him to his teeth, which must needs be a great griefe unto him.

But besides all this, hee is in doubt of his servants; for they likewise neglect their former duty, and leane altogether to their mistresse: so that he poore man, which now by reason of his sicknesse, and feeblenesse of body, hath more need of attendance than ever he had, shall have but very little or none at all: For though he be as wise and as careful as ever he was, yet still he cannot bestirre himselfe to follow them as he was wont, they contumne and make no more reckoning of him, than if he were a meer foole.

When peradventure the eldest sonne, thinking that his father lieth too long, will take upon him to guide the house, and dispose all things at his pleasure, as if his father were become an inscient, and could no longer looke to things as he was wont: Judge you whether the good man seeing himselfe thus abused by his wife, children and servants, be grieved or not. If he purpose to make his will, they will seeke all meanes to keepe him from doing it, because they beare an itching, that hee will be slow somewhat on the Parish, or will not bequeath his wife so much as she would have.

So hee short, that they may make an end of him the sooner, they will many times leave him in his Chamber halfe a day and more
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without meat, fire, or ought else, not one of them coming to see what he wants, or to doe him any service: his wife is weary of him by reason of his spitting, coughing, and groaning.

All the love and kindnesse which hee had in former times shewed unto her, is quite forgotten: but his wife for supercilious, and his crabbednesse towards her, (when she had suckt in of him) this she can still as well remember, as when it was first done: rather will she spare to praise thereof to her neighbours: telling them that he hath bene a bad man, and that she hath led such a life with him, that if she had not bene a woman of great patience, she could never have endured to keepe house with so crabbed a churle.

She will likewise boldly reproach, and taunt him in the teeth with those former matters, so: it doth yet secretly sticke in her stomach, that she could not till now be a mistress. But he that was wont to charme her tongue, and keepe her under; who seeing him now in his distresses and weakness, takes advantage, and continues his bad usage: seeing also his Children, which should feare and reverence him, taking part with their mother, being taught and set on by her: seeing this (I say) and being no lesse angry than grieved, he calls some of them in a rage, and when they are come before him, thus begins he to his wife.

Wife, you are she, whom by the lawes of God and man, I should love and esteeme more than any thing else in the world, and you on the other side should beare the like affection to me: but whether you doe so or not, I referre it to your owne consciences: I tell you I am not well pleased with your using me thus: I thinke you take me still for the Master of the house as before you have done, but whether you thinke so or not, be sure I will be master while I live, yet you I thanke you, doe use me and account of me in very slight manner: I have alway loved you well, never suffered you to lacke that which was mine: I have in like sort loved, and also maintained your Children and mine, according to my degree, and now both you and they doe very unkindly requite me.

Why (saith shee) What would you have us to doe? Will use the best woman, but you cannot tell your selfe what you would have. The better we use you, and the more we tend you, the worse you are, but you were never other, alwayes chafing, and never quiet, never pleased full nor fasting: I thinke never woman was so long troubled with a crooked Pottle as I have bene.

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His Dame (saith he) leaue these words I pray you: then turning him to his eldest sonne, he said: Sonne, I haue marbelled at your behabour of late towards mee, and I tell you I am not well pleased therewith: You are my eldest, and shall bee mine heire, if you behaue your selfe as a Child ought to doe: But you begin already to take state upon you, and to dispose of my goods at your pleasure: I wou'd not wish you to be so forward, but rather while I liue, to serue and obey me as it becomes you to doe: I haue bene no bad father unto you, I haue nothing impaired or diminished, but increased that which was left me by my father, which if you doe your duty to me (as I did mine to him) I will leaue to you after my decease as he left to me: but if you continue in your stobboznesse and disobedience, before God (I sweare) I will not bestow one penny or crosse upon thee.

Here his Wife begins againe to thwart him: Why, what would you haue him doe? It is impossible for any one to please you: he shall haue enough to doe that shall alwayes tend you: I wis it is high time that you and I were both in Heauen, you know not your selfe what you would haue. I marvell what you aile. Well, well, (saith he) I pray you be quiet, doe not maintaine him thus against me, but it is alwayes your order.

After this, the Mother and Sonne departing, consult together, and conclude, that he is become a Child againe, and because he hath threatned to disinherit them, they resolve that no man shall be suffered to come and speake with him: His soone takes upon him more than before, being borne out by his Mother, who together with him, makes every one beleue that the poore man is become chillsy, and and that he hath lost both his sence and memory.

If any of his honest friends and former acquaintance, which were wont to resort unto him, come now to aske for him, his Wife will thus answer them: Alas he is not to be spoken with: and when he demands the cause thereof, doubting he is dangerously sicke: A good neighbour (saith she) he is become an Innocent, even a Child againe; so that I poore soule, must guide all the house, and take the whole charge of all things upon me, having none to helpe me: but God be praised for all.

His faith (saith the other) I am very sorry to heare this, and doe much marvell at it: for it is not long since I saw him, & spoke with him, and

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then he was in as good memory, & spake with as good sense and reason as eber he did before. In truth (saith she) he is now as I tell you.

Thus both these young and tender the poore man, which hath alwayes lived in good credit, and kept his household in cheere good order: but you may bee well assured, that hee seeing himselfe in his age thus despised and injured, and being not able to remedy himselfe nor stir without help from the place where he is, thereby to acquaint his friends therewith, which might in his behalfe redresse it, is not a little grieved, vexed, and tormented in his minde, with sorrow and anger: So that it is a great marvell hee falls not into despaire: For it is enough to make a Saint become impatient to be used thus by those which should obey, serve & honour him. And in my opinion this is one of the greatest Tormentes that any man can feele: Such is the issue of this great hate and extreme desire to be in Gods power, where hee must now remaine perforce, till death doe end (at once) both his life and languishing.

CHAP. X. The humour of a Woman given to all kinde of pleasures.

Another humour incident to a woman by nature is, when the Husband (thinking that wedlocke was of all estates the happiest, and althogether replanished with delight and pleasure) because he saw some of his friends, who for a while after they were married, were very cheerefull and sociable, never ceaseth talking and turmoyleing himselfe till he hath gotten into Lobs pound, wherein hee is presently caught fast like a Bird in a net: for this comparison, if we doe examine the particulars thereof, doth very fitly resemble his estate. The silly Birds which fly from tree to tree, and from field to field to seek meat, when they see a great deale of Corne, spilt on the ground, thinke themselves well againe, and without any feare come hither to feed thereon picking up the grains of Corne, but alas they are deceived, for on a sudden the net is drawne, and they are all fast tye by the legs, and thence carried in a sacke or panier one upon another to the fowlers house, then croust up in a cage. Oh how happy would they thinke themselves, if they were againe at their former liberty to fly whither they list, but they wissh too late: yet were this all the evil that they should endure, it were well, but (which is worse) they shall soone after have their neckes loyung off, & their little bodiees spitted, to be made meat for men to eat.

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But they are herein farre more simple than the Birds, for they being fast in Lebs pound, are so belotted with their owne sorowes, that they have no power to free themselves: So likewise they have no will to doe it. But to proceed, the Wife not loving her Husband, for some defect which is in him, that she may have some colour for that she doth, makes her Mother and other friends to ch blame her for it, beleeve, that her Husband is bewitcht, and by reason of some Sozcery, made for the most part impotent; hereupon she complains of her ill fortune, resembling it to those, which having the Cup at their noses, cannot drinke: meane while she hath a sweet heart in a corner, who is not bewitched, who useth her company so long, and with so little heed, that in the end her Husband perceives it, and falling into the baine of jealousy, beats her well favouredly, and keeps a soule fire both with blowes and wordes, so that she not liking his usage, gives him the slip, but then is he cleane out of patience, and so Husbands in this taking are so mad, that they never lin seeing them and would give halfe they are woorth to finde her again: who having thus plaid her pagrant, and seeing her Husbands Humour, compact with her Mother, whose good will she will bee sure to get by one meanes or other, (whereas at the first she will perhaps thinke hardly of her departure from her Husband) she doth I say so handle the matter with her, that she will make the good man beleeve her daughter hath bene all this while at home with her, and that she came to him his bad usage, & he (had she carried with him till then) had bene lamed for ever.

Before God (quoth she) I had rather you should restore her again to me, than beat her thus without cause, for I know that you suspect her wrongfully, and that she hath never offended you: I wis I have straitly examined her about it, but if she wou'd have bene naught, you did enough to provoke her: By Gods passion I thinke few women could have borne it. Well (it may be) that upon these or the like termes he takes her againe: it may be also that they are both desirous to bee divorced, each accusing other, and seeking to undo themselves againe out of Lebs pound, but in vaine. For either the causes that they allege are not thought sufficient by the Judge, both hard soever they plead, but must of force continue still together, are laughed to scorn: or if all that be are the cause: or if they be separated, yet will not all this set them free, but rather plunge them in deeper than

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than before, but neither of them can marry whilst the other lives: and their chastity so brittle (especially hers,) that hold it cannot, nor long endure.

She who was wont to be so solicitous, must needs continue so still; say peradventure, being now without controulment, follows her evil and lewd life, more freely then before: and whereas she was but earely a private Queene, she is now common in the way of Whoredomship; or else some lusty Gallant takes her into his house, and shelters her by his nose, which must needs be unto him an exceeding inward griefe, and an open disgrace and shame in the eyes of the world; and which is worse, he knowes not how in the world to remedy it, but must perforce endure both, whilst this miserable life doth last.

CHAP. XI. The humour of a woman to get her
Daughter a Husband, having made
a little wanton escape.

The next humour that a woman is addicted unto, is, when a lusty young Gallant riding at pleasure up and downe the Countrey, but especially to those places of sports and pleasure where the finest Dames and dainty Girdles meet, who can finely mince their Measures, having their tongues trained up to all kinds of amorous chat; in which delightfull exercises, this Donker both by reason of his youth, his loose bringing up, and naturall inclination, takes a great felicity in such vaine company: and so much the rather, because hee findes himselfe alwayes welcommed, and kindly entertained to such places, and the reason is the comeliness of his person, his amiable countenance, and quaint behabour: so; whosoever hath these good helps, shall want no favour at Womens hands; It may be also that his parents are still living, and hee thei onely top, they having perhaps no Childs but him, so that all their most delight is in maintaining him bravely. It may be also, that hee is newly come to his Lands, and loates to see fashions, though it cost his purse never so largely. If any Gentle-woman offer any kindness, hee is ready to requite it: and at length through long passing to many places hee lights on one that doth exceedingly please his eye, and inflame his heart: shee is perhaps Daughter to some Gentleman, some Cittizen, or some worthy Farmer. Shee hath a clere complexion:

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plexion, a fine proportion, and wanton eye, a dainty tongue, and a sharp wit, by reason of all which good gifts, she is growne very famous. She hath beene wooed, sued, and courted by the bravest Gallants in that Countrey; of whome perhaps some one being more bold and couragious than the rest, hath offered her such kindnesse, as shee by the time a good while after, and would needs enforce this courtship with such importunity, that she had not the power to resist it: for a woman that hath her fine wits, if she be withall of a cheerefull sanguine complexion, cannot be so unkind, or so hard hearted as to deny, or repulse the petition of an amorous friend, if he doe any thing earnestly prosecute the same. And (to be plain) he she of what complexion soever, she will be nothing like to grant such a suit.

But to returne to our purpose, by reason of her tender compassion, and kinde acceptance of his proffered service, it so falls out shee hath plaid false, then is there no other shift but to keepe it both secret and close, and to take such order as they best can, for smoothing up of the matter; hee that hath done the deed, being a poore young man, though proper of body, and perhaps can dance very well, by which good quality hee winnes her favour, and within a while after cropt the flower of her maidenhead: he (I say) after a checke or two, and no further matter, (lest this priue scape should be openly knowne) is warned from coming any more to the house, or frequenting her company whatsoever.

But now you must note, that she being but a simple girl, between foueteene and fiftene yeeres of age, nothing expert, but rather a novice in such matters, and having beene but lately deceived, knowes not her selfe how it is with her: But her Mother which by long experience hath gotten great ingement, both by her colour, her complaining of pains at her heart and stomacke, with other like tokens, perceiues it well enough, and having (as before I said) cashiered the Author of the action: Then takes she her daughter aside, and schooles her so, that in the end she confesseth that she hath beene dalling with her, but she knowes not whether to any purpose or not. Now (saith her Mother) it is to such purpose, as by these signes I know very well, that you have thereby both shamed your selfe, and all our friends, and spoiled your marriage quite and cleare.

To be short, having somewhat chid her after the common order for having no more respect nor care of her honour, (yet not chiding
her,

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very extremely, because she knowes the frailty of youth by her owne former experience) she concludes thus comfortably: Sir it is waste, and cannot be altogether remedied, she will seeke best to hide and salve the matter as well as she can; charging her Daughters to set a good countenance on it, lest it should be suspected, and to follow her counsell and commandment in all things: Whereupon the poore wench willingly consenteth, then the other proceed thus:

You know Master T. A. that cometh hither so often, he is you see a proper Gentleman, and a rich Gentleman; so much so he hath appointed to be here againe: Looke that you give him good entertainment, and shew him good countenance. When you see mee and the rest of our Guests talking and discourting together, eber and anon cast your eye on him, in the kindest and lovingest manner that you can: If he seeme desirous to speake with you, be not shy, but heare him willingly, answer him courteously. If he shew love of you, tell him that you know not what it means, and that you have no desire at all to know it; yet thanke him for his good will: for that Woman is too uncourteous and uncharitable, which will not doubtfull the hearing of gently answering to those that love her and wish her well.

If he offer you money, take none in any case, if a ring, or a girdle, or any such thing, at the first refuse it, yet kindly and with great thanks: but if he urge it on you twice or thrice, take it, telling him that he will needs bestow it on you, you shal weare it for his sake. Lastly, when he takes his leave, wish him when he will come againe: These instructions being thus given, and the plot laid for the catching in of this kinde foole into a snare.

The next day hee cometh, and is on all hands more kindly welcome and entertained: after dinner, having had great cheere the Gosther falls in talke with the other guests, and this frolicke mirth gets him as neere to her Daughters as he can, and while the other are hard in chat, he takes her by the hand, and thus begins to court her.

Gentlewoman, I would to God you knew my thoughts. Your thoughts Sir (saith she) how should I know them, except you tell them me: It may be you thinke something that you are loth to tell. Not so (saith he) yet I would you knew it without telling. But that (saith she smiling) is impossible. Then (quoth he) if I might doe it without offence, I would adventure to tell you them. Sir (saith she) you may freely speake your pleasure: for I doe so much assure me of
your.

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your honesty, that I know you will speake nothing that may procure offence.

Then thus (saith he) I acknowledge without faining, that I am farre unworthy of so great a labour, as to be accepted for your Servant, friend, and lover, which are so faire, so gentle, and every way so gracious, that I may truly say, you are replenished with all the good gifts that nature can plant in any mortall creature: But if you would vouchsafe me this undescribed grace, my good will, diligence, and continuall forwardnesse to serber and please you shall never fail: but I would therein equall the most loyall lover that euer liued, I would esteem you more than any thing else, and tender more your good name and credit than mine owne.

Good Sir (quoth she) I heartily thanke you for your kinde offer, but I pray you speake no more of such matters, for I neither know what love is, nor yet care for knowing it: This is not the lesson that my Mother teacheth me now a daies. Will he (saith he) if it please you she shall know nothing of it; yet the other day I heard her talke of preferring you in marriage to one Master G. R. Would say you to that (quoth she?) Parry thus (answers the Gentleman,) If you would vouchsafe to entertaine me for your servant, I would never marry, but onely rely upon your labour.

But that (saith she) should be no profit to either of us both, & beside it would be to my reproach, which I had not thought you would seeke. Nay (quoth he) I had rather die than seeke your discredit. Well Sir (saith she) speake no more hereof, for if my Mother should perceiue it, I were utterly undone. And it may be her Mother makes her a signe to giue over, fearing that she doth not play her part well.

At the breaking up of their amorous Parley, he conueies into her hand a gold ring, or some such toy, desiring her to take it and keepe it for his sake: which at the first (according to her mothers precepts) she doth refuse: but upon his more earnest urging of it, she is content to take it in the way of honesty, and not on any promise or condition of any farther matter: when it was brought to this passe, the Mother makes motion of a Journey to be made the next morning, some ten or twelue miles off, to visit, or feast with some friend, or to some faire, or whatsoever other occasion presents it selfe: And this motion they all agree, and afterwards sit downe to supper, where hee is placed next the Daughter, who carries her selfe so toward him with
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her piercing glances, that the young Belto is set on fire therewith: Well, morning comes, they mount on Horsebacks, and by the opinion of them all, there is never a Horse in the company that can carry double but his: So the gull is appointed to have the Maiden ride behinde him, whereof he is not a little proud: and when he feels her hold fast by the middle, (which she doth to stay her selfe the better) he is even ravished with ioy.

After their returning home, which perhaps will be the same night, the Mother taking her Daughter aside, questions with her, touching all that had passed betweene the amorous Gallant, and her: which when her Daughter hath repeated, then proceeds the wily Gaudame thus: If he court thee any more (as I know he will) then make him answer it as thou hast heard thy father and me talke of matching thee with Master G.R. but that thou hast no desire as yet to be married: if he then offers to make thee his Wife, and use any comparisons of his worth and wealth, as though he were every way as good as hee, thanks him for his good will and kindnesse, and tell him that thou wilt speake with mee about it, and that for thy owne part thou couldst finde in thy heart to have him to thy Husband rather than any man else: upon this lesson the Daughter sleeps, revolving it all night in her minde.

The next morning she walkes into the Garden, and this lusty yonker followes; when having given her time of the day, he falls to his former sute. She wills him to give over such talke, or she will leave his company: Is this the love you beare me (quoth she) to make my dishonesty? You know well enough that my father and Mother are minded to bestow me otherwise.

Oh my sweet Mistress (saith he) I would they did so farre favour mee herein, as they doe him: I dare boldly say and sweare it, and without vaine glozy utter it, that I am every way his equall. Oh Sir, (answers she,) I would he were like you. Ah sweet Mistress (saith he) you daime to thinke better of me than I deserve, but if you would further touchsafe me the other favour, I should esteem my selfe most happy. In troth Sir, (saith she) it is a thing that I may not doe of my selfe, without the counsell and consent of my Parents, to whom I would gladly move it, if I thought they would not be offended: What it would be so much the better if you brake the matter unto them, and be sure, if they referre the matter to mee,

you.

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your honesty, that I know you will speake nothing that may procure offence.

Then thus (saith he) I acknowledge without saining, that I am farre unworthy of so great a labour, as to be accepted for your Servant, friend, and lover, which are so faire, so gentle, and every way so gracious, that I may truly say, you are replenished with all the good gifts that nature can plant in any mortall creature: But if you would vouchsafe me this undeserbed grace, my good will, diligence, and continuall forwardnesse to serber and please you shall never fail: but I would therein equall the most loyall lover that ever lived, I would esteeme you more than any thing else, and tender more your good name and credit than mine owne.

Good Sir (quoth she) I heartly thanke you for your kinde offer, but I pray you speake no more of such matters, for I neither know what love is, nor yet care for knowing it: This is not the lesson that my Mother teacheth me now a dayes. Why (saith he) if it please you she shall know nothing of it; yet the other day I heard her talke of preferring you in marriage to one Master G. R. Wold say you to that (quoth she?) Parry thus (answers the Gentleman,) If you would vouchsafe to entertaine me for your Servant, I would never marry, but onely rely upon your labour.

But that (saith she) should be no profit to either of us both, & best if it would be to my reproach, which I had not thought you would take. Nay (quoth he) I had rather die than take your discredit. Well Sir (saith she) speake no more hereof, for if my Mother should perceiue it, I were utterly undone. And it may be her Mother makes her a signe to give over, fearing that she doth not play her part well.

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After their returning home, which perhaps will be the same night, the Mother taking her Daughter aside, questions with her, touching all that had passed betwene the amorous Gallant, and her: which when her Daughter hath repeated, then proceeds the wily Grandame thus: If he court thee any more (as I know he will) then make him answer it at thou hast heard thy father and me talke of matching thee with Master G.R. but that thou hast no desire as yet to be married: if he then offers to make thee his Wife, and use any comparisons of his worth and wealth, as though he were every way as good as he, thanks him for his good will and kindnesse, and tell him that thou wilt speake with mee about it, and that for thy owne part thou couldst finde in thy heart to have him to thy Husband rather than any man else: upon this lesson the Daughter sleeps, revolving it all night in her minde.

The next morning she walks into the Garden, and this lusty yonger follows; when having given her time of the day, he falls to his former tale. She wills him to give over such talke, or she will leave his company: Is this the love you beare me, (quoth she) to make my dishonesty? You know well enough that my father and Mother are minded to bestow me otherwise.

Oh my sweet mistress (saith he) I would they did so farre labour mee herein, as they doe him: I dare boldly say and sweare it, and without vaine gloze utter it, that I am every way his equall. Oh Sir, (answers she,) I would he were like you. Oh sweet mistress (saith he) you daime to thinke better of me than I deserve, but if you would further touchsafe me the other labour, I should esteem my selfe most happy. In troth Sir, (saith she) it is a thing that I may not doe of my selfe, without the counsell and consent of my Parents, to whom I would gladly moue it, if I thought they would not be offended: What it would be so much the better if you bzake the matter unto them; and be sure, if they referre the matter to mee,

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you shall speed as soone as any. He being ravisht with these words, and praising her infinite thanks, trots presently to the Mother, to get her good will.

To be short, (with some little adoe) the matter is brought about, even in such sort as he would desire: they are straight way contracted, and immediately wedded, both because that her friends feare that the least delay will prevent all, and because he is so hot on the spur, that he thinks every houre a yeare till it be done. Well, the wedding night comes, wherein he behaves her selfe so (by her Mothers counsell) that he dares sweare on the Bible that he had her Maidenhead.

Within a while after, it comes to his Friends eares, without whose knowledge he hath married himselfe, who are exceeding sorry, knowing there was no meet match for him, and it may be they have heard withall of his Wifes humour: but now there is no remedy, that knot is knit, and cannot be undone, they must therefore have patience perforce.

Well, he brings his faire Bride home to his stone house, where (God wot) he hath but a small time of pleasure, for within three or foure moneths after their Marriage, shee is brought to Bed: Judge then in what taking the poore man is. If hee put her abap, his shame will be publike, she growes common, and he not be permitted to marry againe while he liues, and if he keepe her still, loe hee cannot, suspect hee he will, and shee both hate him, and perhaps seeke his end: finally, all the toys, pleasures, and delights, which befoze time they had, are all turned to hzardes, banning, cursing and fighting. Thus is he hampered in Lobs pound, where he must of force remaine, till death end his life miseries.

CHAP. XII. The humour of a Woman being matched with an over-kinde Husband.

There is another humour incident to a Woman, which is, when a Young man hath turnepled and tossed himselfe so long, that with much adoe, he hath gotten into Lobs pound, and hath perhaps met with a Wife according to his owne desire, and perchance such a one, that it had beene better for him to have
lighted

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lighted on another: Yet hee likes her so well, that hee would not haue mist her for any Gold, for in his opinion there is no Woman aliue like unto her, hee hath a great delight to heare her speake, is proud of his match, and peradventure is withall of so Deepish a Nature, that hee hath purposed wholly to governe himselfe by her counsell and direction: So that if any one speake to him about a Bargaine, or whatsoever other businesse, hee tells them that hee will haue his Wifes opinion in it, and if shee bee content, hee will goe thorow with it, if not, then will hee giue it ower: Thus is hee as tame and pliable as a Gache-an-Apes to his keeper. If the Prince set forth an Army, and shee be unwilling that hee should goe who (you may thinke) will aske her leaue, then must hee stay at home, fight who will for the Country: But if shee be at any time desirous to haue his roome, (which many times she likes better than his company) shee wants no Iourneyes to imploy him in, and he is as ready as a Page to undertake them: If she chide, he answers not a word: generally whatsoever shee doth, or howsoever, hee thinks it well done.

Judge now what a case this silly Case is in: Is not hee (thinke you) finely dyed, that is in such subjection? The honestest Woman, and most modest of that Sex, if shee weare the Brides, she is so out of reason in taunting and controlling her Husband: For this is their common fault, and hee she neuer so wise, yet because a Woman, scarce able to governe her selfe, much lesse her Husband, and all his affaires: for were it not so, doubtlesse God would haue made her the Head: which lieth it is otherwise, what can hee more preposterous, than that the Head should be goverened by the Foot? If then a wise and honest Womans superiority be unreasonably, and breed great inconveniences, &c. What is he dyest (thinke you) if he light on a fond, wanton, and malicious Dame? Then (doubtlesse) hee is soundly sped: shee will not sticke to keepe a sweet heart under his nose: yet is hee so blinde, that hee can perceiue nothing, but for more security shee will many times send him packing beyond Sea, about some odde errand, which shee will buzze in his eares, and hee will performe it at his pleasure, albeit shee send him forth at midnight, in Raine, Hail, or Snow, for hee must be a roome for

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for all weathers : Their Children (if they have any) must needs be brought up, appparelled, fed, and taught, onely according to her pleasure : and one speciall point of their learning, is alwayes to make no account of their Father . If any of their Children be Daughters, she will marry them according to her minde to whom she list, when she list, and gibe with them what Dowry she list, without acquainting him therewith, till she have concluded the match, and then she tels him, not to have his consent, but as a Master may tell his servant, to gibe him direction how to behaue himselfe to deale therein . Finally she orders all things as she thinkes best her selfe, making no more account of him, (especially if he be in yeares,) than men doe of an old horse which is past labour.

Thus is he melted up in Lobs pound, plunged in a Sea of cares and cozoules, yet he (kinde foole) deemes himselfe most happy in his unhappinesse, where he must now perforce remaine while his life doth last, and great pittie it were he should want it, sith he likes it so well.

CHAP. XIII. The humour of a Woman whose Husband is gone beyond the Sea, upon some businesse.

A nother humour of a Woman is, when the Husband hath bene married some seven or eight yeares more or lesse, and as he thinks he hath met with a good Wife as any man can have, with whom he hath continued all the aforesaid time, with great delights and pleasures : But admit he be a Gentleman, and that he is desirous to purchase honour by following Armes, and in this humour he is resolved to make a steppe abroad, and not to tarry alwayes like a cowardly Drone by the smoake of his owne Chimney : But when he is ready to depart, she having her neckes blubbered with teares, falls about his necke, cals, kisses, and embraceth him, then weeping, sighing, and sobbing, she thus begins to him.

Oh sweet Husband, will you now leave me : will you thus depart from me, and from your loving Children, which know not when we shall see you againe, or whether you shall ever come home againe.

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again: or no? Alas sweet Husband goe not; Carry with us still, if you leaue us, we are utterly undone.

Ab sweet Wife (saith he) dissuade me not from this enterprise, which concerns my credit and allegiance; for it is our Princes commandement, and I must obey: but be you well assured, I will not be long from you (if it please God.)

Thus doth he comfort and quiet her in the best sort that he can, and be she neuer so importunate, be her teares neuer so many, her intreaty neuer so forcible, yet goe he will, esteeming his renowne and duty to his Prince and Countrey, more than Wife and Children, though next to it, hee esteeme and love them. Next of all other. And at his departure, he recommends them to the care and courtesie of his chiefe friends: Yet some there be whose tender hearts melt so easily with kinde compassion, that one of their Wives teares, and the least of their intreats, will tye them so fast by the legge at home, that they will not stirre one foot from her sweet side, neither for King nor Keyser, wealth nor honour. These are Crabens, and unworthy to be called Gentlemen.

But to returne to this valourous and brave minded Gentleman, of whom we spake before, it may be, that either by the long continuance of the warres, or by his misfortunes, in being taken Prisoner, or some other let, hee comes not home in foure or fife yeeres, and all that while there is no newes of him, you may be sure that his Wife is a sorrowfull Woman, and wholly surcharged with griefe, being thus deprived of her loving Mate, and hearing nothing of his estate. But all things haue an end, and she seeing that in so long time, she can heare no tidings of him, doth peremptorily conclude that he is dead. Then considering to liue comfortlesse in Widowes estate, were an uncouth life, she determines to marry her selfe to some one, so soone as conveniently she may: which will be soone enough: for a faire Woman, if willing, can want no choyce. Thus she former sorrow is somewhat alaid, and within a while after, cleane extinguish by the fresh delights, pleasures, contents, and solace, which this new choyce doth yeeld. So that now her other Husband is wholly forgotten, her Children which she had by him little regarded, and the Goods which belong to them, are spent on others, while she poore

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Watches want things needfull, but not bloods and bare usage. As he saith, the teares which she bestowed up on her other Husband at his departure, are dried up, her embraces banished. And whosoever should see her with this second Husband, and what kindness she shewes unto him, would heartily thinke that she loves him far better than she did the first, who in the meane while is either taken Prisoner, or else fighting in extreme hazard of his life.

But in the end it chaunceth so, that by paying his Ransome, (if he have beene Prisoner,) home he comes, cleane changed, through the many troubles he hath had: And being come somewhat neere, faileth not to enquire of his Wife and Children, for he is in great feare, that they are either dead, or in some great distresse. And doubtlesse in the time of his Imprisonment, or other dangers, hee hath oft thought, oft dreamed of them, and oft sorrowed for them, oft besought God to preserve and defend them. And that perhaps sometimes, at the very instant when she was in the others armes, toying and dallying, and in the midst of her delights.

Well, enquiring (as aforesaid) heares that she is married againe, then iudge you with what griefe he heares it. But his griefe is bootlesse, for now the matter is past remedy, if he have any care of his credit, any regard of his estimation, he will never take her more, though perhaps the other, having had his pleasure of her, could be well content either to restore her to him, or to leave her to any one else.

Shee on the other side is utterly ashamed, and her name stained with perpetuall reproach, and neither hee nor shee can marry whil'st they live. Their poore Children are likewise grieved and shamed at their Mothers infamy. Sometimes likewise it happens that for the Wives cause, the Husband being courageous doth quarrell, and perhaps combat with him, who being better than himselfe, both either wound or kill him, and the occasion hereof spring from their Wives pride, because (forsooth) they will take the wall of the others Wife, or sit above her: whom shee will in no wise suffer, nor lose an inch of her estate, and hereunto the Husbands must together by the eares.

Thus the supposed blessednesse which hee expected by plunging himselfe in Robs pound, is turned into sorrow, trouble, danger, and continuall discontent: while life doth last.

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CHAP. XIII. The humour of a Woman that hath bene twice married.

There is another humour belonging to a Woman, which is, when a young man (having found the way into her house) meets with a Wife of like yeares, fresh, lusty, faire, kinde, and gracious: with whom she hath lived two or three yeares in all delights, loves, and pleasures, that any married couple could have, never did the one displease the other: never soule was part between them, but they are almost still colling and kissing each other, like a couple of Doves: And nature hath framed such sympathy betwixen them, that if the one bee ill at ease or discontented, the other is so likewise. But in the midst of this their mutuall love and solace, it chanceth that she dyes, whereat he grieves so extremely, that he is almost beside himselfe with sorrow: he mournes not onely in his Apparell, for an outward shew, but unsainedly in his very heart; and that so much, that he shuns all places of pleasure, and all company, lives solitarily, and spends the time in dayly complaints and moanes, and bitterly bewailing the losse of so good a Wife, wherein no man can lustily blame him, for it is a losse worthy to be lamented, and a Newell, which whosoever hath, is happy, (but this hapinesse is very rare.)

To be short; his thoughts are all on her, and she is so firmly painted in his minde, that whether he sleepe or wake, she seemes alwayes to be in sight: but as all things have an end, where sad sorrow. After a while, some of his friends having spied out a second match which as they thinke is very fit for him, doe perswade so much with him, through their perswasions, that hee accepts it, and marries himselfe againe, but not as before, with a young spaid, but with a lusty Widdow, of a middle age, and much experience, who by the trials which she had of her first Husband, knowes how to handle the second: but that she may doo it the better, shee doth not presently discover her humour, till she hath thoroughly marked how he is inclined, what his conditions are, and

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what his nature is : which finding it milde, and kinde, and very flexible (the fittest mould to cast a Foole in) having now the full length of his foot, then shewes the her selfe what she is, unmasking her dissembling malice; her first attempt is to usurpe Superiority, and to become his Head, and this she obtaines without great difficulty, for there is nothing so labish as a simple and well natured young man, being in subiection, that is married to a Widdow, especially if ye she be (as the most of them are) of a perberse and crabbed nature. I may very well compare him to an unfortunate wretch, whose ill fortune is to be cast into some strong Prison, under the keeping of a most cruell and pitilesse Jailor, that is not moved to compassion, but rather to great rigour, in beholding the miseries of this poore wretch, whose onely refuge in this distresse, is to pray unto God, to give him patience to endure this crosse, for if he complaine of his hard usage, it will afterwards prove worse.

But to proceed, This iolly Widdow will within a while grow iealous, feare and suspect that some other Dame hath part of that which shee so earnestly desireth, and wherewith she could never be satisfied, so that if he glut not her insatiable humour, straight way shee conceiveth this opinion : If he doe but onely talke, nay, (which is worse) looke on any other Woman, for she by her good will would be alwayes in his armes, or at the least in his company : For as the Fish which having beene in water, that through the heat of the Summer is halfe dried up, begins to sticke full of mud, seeks for fresh water, and having found it, doth willingly remaine therein, and will in no wise returne to his former place : Even so an old Woman, having gotten a young Man, will cling to him like Ape to an Ape.

But on the other side, a young man cannot love an old Woman howsoever he doth dissemble, neither is there any that more endangers his death: for it is with him, as with one that drinketh musty wine, who if he be thirsty, feesles nothing while he is drinking, but at the end of his drought, he feesles such a displeasing taste, that it doth almost turne his stomacke.

But if young men in no wise can fancy old Women, what love thinke you young Women can beare to old Men, when besides the sundry imperfections of their Age, which are so loathsome, that it

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is impossible for a fresh young tender Damsell, (be she never so vertuous) to endure th^t company, much lesse th^t kisses and embraces of the person which hath them: All the lusty Gallants thereabouts will not faile to use whatsoever devices and meanes possible for the hozning of the old Dotard: hoping that she will be easily wonne to wantonnesse: And surely they ground this hope on great likelihood; for sith it is no difficult exploit to graft the like kindnesse on a Young mans fore-head, who is able in farre better measure to feede his w^{om}ans appetite, and she hath therefore moze cause to be true to him, it may surely seeme no great matter to performe the like parte of service with this other unfortunate Dame.

But now to returne to our Young man, yea, (as before I said) to this old Widdow, I thus conclude, that his estate is most miserable: For besides the danger of his health, and besides the subjection, nay, rather servitude which hee lives in, this third evil, (I meane his w^{om}ans jealousy) is alone an intolerable torment unto him: So that he be never so quiet, never so desirous to content her, never so fearfull to displease her, yet cannot he avoid her humors, obsecrations, and false accusations of lewdnesse and disloyalty: For an old Woman infected with jealousy, is like a bellicifur.

If you goe to any of her friends about businesse, yea, to the Church to serve God, yet will she alwayes thinke the worst, and assure her selfe, that he playes false, though indeed he bee never so continent: who whatsoever he pleadeth in his owne defence, yea, though hee prove himselfe blamelesse, by such reasons as shee can by no reason confute, yet will not all this satisfie her: such is the perverseness of her stubborn, crabbed and malicious nature, made worse by Dotage and raging jealousy: for being privy to her owne defects, and knowing that he by reason of his youth and handsomnesse may perchance fall in favour with a young Dame, thinking withall that a young man, when hee may have such a match, will be loth to leave it for a wo^{man}, so prefers fower verjuice before sweets wine, she concludes peremptorily in those suggestions as before. Doe here the issues of this Aspes turning into Lobs pound, and intangling of himselfe againe; when he had once gotten out to his former liberty, which if hee once more looke for, hee is mad; for he must now perforce conti-

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mathe while life doth last, which by this meanes will be farre longer, and hee looke farre older, habing beene but two yeeres married with this old crab, than if he had liued tenne yeeres with a young wiffe.

CHAP. XV. The humour of a young woman given over to all kinde of wantonnesse.

There is yet another humour that a Woman is subject to, which is, when an unfortunate young man habing long laboured to get into Lobs pound, and habing in the end obtained his desires, doth with himselfe with a lusty wanton young wench, which without feare of him, or care of her owne credit, takes her pleasure freely, and withall so oher-boldly, and unadvisedly, that within a while her Husband perceibes it, who thereupon being not a little annoyed, doth in the heat of his impatience, after much railing on both sides, roughly and desperately threaten her, thinking thereby to terrifie her, and make her honest by compulsion: But that makes her worse, for whereas before she did it for wantonnesse, now will she doe it for despight: and what with the one and the other, he so inflamed, that were she sure to be killed for it, yet would she not leaue it: which he perceiuing, watching her doings sorrowfully, that in the end he sees her secret heart come closely to his house, then being on fire with fury, runnes hastily to surprisise him, and enters his Wifes Chamber, with full purpose to kill him, though he had tenne thousand liues: What widge you what a taking the poore young man is in, seeing himselfe thus surprised, and looking for nothing elsse but present death, because he hath nothing to defend himselfe. But he, for whose sake he hath incurred this danger, doth kindly free him by this stratagem, for as her Husband is ready to strike of steele him, she catches him hastily about the middle, crying out, What man what doe you meane: while she thus stays her Husband, the younger betaketh him to his heels, running downe the staires maine, and out of the doores, as if the Deuill were at his tayle, and after him the good man, as fast as he can dixe. But when he sees that he cannot overtake him, he turnes backe in a like rage,

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to make his anger on his Wife. But she speaking as much
gave her partly, (before his returne) to her Mother, to whom
she complained of his causeless suspicion, and devilish fury. In
rising her selfe, as if she were not the woman that would com-
mit so leude a part: But her Mother sitting the matter narro-
ly, her Daughter confesseth her fault, but to make it seeme the
less, she tells her a large tale of the young Mans impostumie,
who for so long time together, did continually trouble her, and
whither soever she went, he would bee sure to follow her, beg-
ging pittifully her love, and fauour, that shee had often sharp-
ly answered him: and flatly deneged his suit, yet could shee not
for all that bee rid of him: so that in the end she was forced for
her owne quietnesse to grant his request: shee reports withall,
how kindly and sincerely shee loves her, how much she hath be-
stowed on her, how many soules iourneys shee hath had for her
sake, in Raine and Snow, as well by night as day, in danger of
thebes, in perill of his life, and how narrowly he escapen her
Husband the last time, so that for very pittie and compassion, she
was moved to fauour him: and no Woman could be so hard hearted
as to suffer so true and kind a young man to languish for her love,
and bee disregarded: for on my life Mother (saith she) if I had not
perceiued, hee would haue died for thought.

The Mother hearing her Daughter to say thus, accepts her an-
swer for currant, and thinkes that she hath sufficiently iusti-
fied her selfe, but to prevent further scandall, and to appease her
angry soules in laie, and reconcile her Daughter unto him by casting
a mist before his eyes, she takes this course, she sends for her spe-
ciall Gallies and companions, whose counsels in like colour she
doth use: They coming at the first call, and being all assembled,
either before a good fire, (if it be Winter) or in a garden: And
(if it be Summer) one of them noting her daughters deuty coun-
teruaunce, demands the cause thereof: Witty, (saith she) I haue had
had a mischance, about which, I haue made bold to trouble you, and
crave your advice: With that shee recounts all the whole matter
unto them, but shewing the true cause of her Husbands anger: And
shee sheweth, she hath ready tips as the pottes of Wine, and a bird
in the net, which they presently callaband on, that they may the bet-
ter give their severall verdicts afterwards, when while they were

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soz the young Woman, bidding her assure her selfe, that her Husband is moze perplexed than she, and that I know by mine owne experience, soz my Husband and I were once at variance, but hee could neuer be quiet till we were made friends. In good faith Gossip (saith another) and so serued I mine. Another makes a motion to send so: the young Gallant that is so true a lover to her Gossips Daughter, that his presence may cheere her, and rid away her melancholy.

This motion both her Mother faintly contradict, but in the end most boyes prebails, hee is sent soz, and comes with a trice, then there is much good chat many a reproofe and kinde scoffe given the poore Husband: And to mend the matter comes in the Chamber-maid, who was privy to all the former close packing betweene her spirits and her sweet heart, and soz her silence and imployment, in furthering both their contents, she hath gotten a good new gowne, and somewhat else.

It may be her master hath sent her abroad about some business or perhaps shee coines an excuse of her selfe, thereby onely to make a day abroad to see her spirits, and to bring her some newes, how all things goe at home: whee hath no sooner set her foot within the roomes where they are, than one of them askes how her Master doth? My Master (saith shee) I neuer saw a man in that taking: I dare say, that since yesterday morning when this misfortune happened, hee hath not eaten one crumme drinke one droppe, or slept one wink he all yesternight. To day he sate downe to dinner, and put one bit in his mouth, but could not swallow it, so he spit it out presently, and sate a good while after in a dumpe: In the end striking his knife on the table, hee rose hastily, and went into the Garden, and immediately came in againe: To be short, he is altogether out of temper, and cannot goe to no where: He doth nothing but sigh and sob, and hee looks like a dead man: heretofore they laugh apace, and to be short, they determine that two of the chiefe of them, shall goe and speake with him the next morning, and that when they are in the midst of their talke, the rest shall come in afterward. The Mother with her two Gossips, according to this plot, doe proceed in the matter. And next morning finding him in his dumpe, one of them gently askes him what hee ayles: hereto hee answers onely with a sigh: whereupon shee takes occasion thus to speake: In good faith Gossip, I must chide you;

my

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my Gossip your Wishes Mother told me I know not what of a disagreement betwene your Wife & you, and a certaine fond humour that you are fallen into: I wis I am sorry to heare it: And before God you are not so wise as I had thought you had bene, to bring your Wife thus without a cause, for I durst lay my life there is no such matter. By this good day (saith another) I have knowne her ever since she was a little one, both Maide and Wife, and I never saw but well by the Woman: And in good sooth it grieves me to the very heart, that her name should now come in question without cause: Before God, you have done the worse Woman that disgrace, and so stained her good name, that you will never be able to make her amends. Then appeares the Chamber-maid with her three egges. In good saith (saith she) I know not what my Master hath seene or whereon he hath grounded his suspicion, but I take God to my witness, that I never saw any such matter by my Mistress, and yet I am sure that if there were any such thing, I should see it as soon as another. Gods body Wab (saith he, all enraged) wilt thou face me downes of that which my selfe saw? Oh Gossip, (quoth one of the Dames) God forbid that every Man and Woman which are alone together, should doe evill. I deny not (saith the Chamber-maid) that the villanous Rascal hath long sued unto my Mistress for such a matter, but by my honest Master, I know that there is never a man alive, whom she hates more: And rather than she would commit any such folly with him, she would see him hang'd, and be hang'd her selfe: I marvel how the Devil he got into the house.

Here the other Gossips come in, one after another, and each gives her verdict: In good saith Gossip (saith one) I thinke that next your Wife, there is never a Woman in the world, that loves you better than I doe: and if I knew or thought any such matter, I would not let to tell you of it. Surely (saith another) this is but the Devils work to set them at variance, for he cannot abide that Husband and Wife should live well together. In good saith saith the third, the worse Woman doth nothing but weepe. By Chylle, (quoth the fourth) I feare it will cost her her life, she grieves and takes on in such sort. Then comes the Mother weeping and crying out, making as though she would scratch out his eyes with her nayles, exclaiming in this sort.

Ah cursed Caitiffe, woe worth the time that ever my Daughter
matcht

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might with thee to be thus thamed and slandered, and haue her name
spotted without cause. But she is well enough serued, that would haue
such a late Childe, when he might haue had twenty good Gentlemen.
My good Colly, (saith another) be not out of patience.

On My Colly (saith she) if my Daughter were in fault by our good
Marry, I would kill her my selfe. But thinke mee I haue no cause to
be moued, when I see my Childe, being guiltlesse, thus used: With
that she flings out of doore in a rage, and all the Collyps come upon
him thicke and threefold, who is so full of sundry thoughts, and so
grieved and troubled, that he knowes not whereon to resolue, nor
what to say.

At the end they groweing somewhat calmer, promise if he will, to
undertake the reconciling of him and his wife, which he most earne-
stly desireth them to doe.

They accordingly performe it, so that at centoberwes are ended, al
strife ceased, the master pushed up and his wife taken home againe,
who taking greater courage by the successe thereof, and being now
cleare past shame, will growe farre bolder in her discourse, than before.
And he poore Deuotelle, on the other side, loosing his courage thus
quailed, will neuer afterwards fall in odde with her, for feare of the
like hazard, but will suffer her to haue her vniue will in all things,
and be in manner subiect to her, spending the remnant of his life,
in care, sorrow, discontent and griefe, his goods wanting he knowes
not how, how himselfe become a laughing stocke to all that know him.

F. N. S.

